

2 Home - Middle East news

Imam of Azhar, Bahraini emir discuss Islamic issues

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — The emir of Bahrain on Tuesday conferred with the imam of Al Azhar Mosque and the Kuwaiti minister of religious affairs, amid speculation an Islamic drive was in the offing to end the four-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The imam, Sheikh Gad UI Haq Ali told reporters that his talks with the Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, dealt mainly with "Islamic issues" and means of instituting sound religious education for the young generation in all Muslim countries.

He said that cooperation between Al Azhar and the island state of Bahrain has been "on the rise."

No mention was made of the Gulf war, however.

The Kuwaiti Minister, Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Al Jasser, avoided reporters' questions.

Kuwait and Bahrain, along with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman make up the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), a three-year-old regional economic cooperation and collective defence alliance.

The six countries have professed neutrality in the Gulf war, while actively exerting mediation bids to bring it to an end.

Al Azhar, along with its namesake university in Egypt, are generally revered as the intellectual capital of Islam and the respected seat of religious learning and Koranic interpretation.

Gad UI Haq is both imam, or religious leader, and sheikh, which is clerical and academic title. He doubles as rector of the Al Azhar University.

The title of sheikh in the Gulf region carries a royal connotation. In Cairo, the semi-official new-

spaper Al Ahran reported that Egypt has agreed with Iraq to sponsor a "broad religious conference" aimed at ending the war between Iran and Iraq.

It said the projected conference also would seek means of putting "moral and religious" pressure on Iran to bring the conflict to an end.

An Egyptian delegation, led by the minister of religious endowments, would attend the conference, according to the paper.

No details were immediately known here as to the venue and agenda of the planned conference. Under Islamic precepts, Al Azhar transcends the subtle nuances between Shi'ites and Sunnites, the two sects of Islam.

Iran is predominantly Shi'ite, while Iraq is ruled by Sunni Muslim secular leaders.

The advent of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979 transformed Iran from a secular monarchy to a Shi'ite, religious revolutionary regime.

Soviets worried by construction of alleged U.S. airbase in N.Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Soviet Union is seriously concerned that a major new airport and other military facilities being built in the Turkish-occupied part of the island are earmarked for use by the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, according to a leading Greek Cypriot politician.

Glafcos Clerides, leader of the pro-Western opposition Democratic Rally Party, quoted an unnamed Soviet Bloc diplomat as telling him "the Soviet Union is very much concerned about these developments."

In addition to the airport at Lefkonico, 25 miles east of Nicosia, a naval base is also being constructed at Xeros 30 miles west and a missile site in the foothills of the Kyrenia mountains just north of the capital, Mr. Clerides said.

Addressing a group of visiting newsmen based in Strassbourg, Mr. Clerides further quoted the Soviet diplomat as telling him "the Soviets are convinced these military facilities are being financed

by the United States and are designed to transform the island into a NATO military base."

Talking to the same group of newsmen, Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou, rejected the claim of U.S. involvement.

He said he had been assured by Washington that the United States had nothing to do with the airport or any other military installation in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus.

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denkash, charged the reports were part of Mr. Kyprianou's "Byzantine games."

The objective was to turn the non-aligned Islamic states against the self-proclaimed breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the Turkish-occupied region.

Mr. Denkash, who was also addressing the Strassbourg newsmen, said the Lefkonico Airport was being built to replace the present Ertaç Airport, 15 miles closer to Nicosia, which will be closed for repairs.

The site of the Lefkonico Airport is off limits and the Turkish authorities have refused to allow foreign newsmen to visit it, thus fueling allegations the airport is a military facility.

Mr. Clerides said the Soviets are pressuring Mr. Kyprianou through the powerful Greek Cypriot Communist Party, AKEL, to settle the disputes dividing the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The Soviets, he added, are worried that the buildup of military installations in the Turkish-occupied region, will lead to the permanent division of the island.

The northern one third of the island has been under Turkish occupation since 1974 when Turkey invaded Cyprus ostensibly to protect the Turkish Cypriot 18 per cent minority. This followed a coup by right wing Greek Cypriots supporting union with Greece that briefly overthrew the then president, the late Archbishop Makarios.

Egyptian envoy carries message to Reagan

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt's newly designated ambassador to Washington said Tuesday he will convey to President Ronald Reagan a message from President Hosni Mubarak urging an active U.S. role in Middle East peace-making during the chief executive's second term.

Ambassador Abdul-Raouf Al-Reedy spoke to reporters after meeting Mr. Mubarak to receive directives for his new job. He said he planned to leave for Washington on Nov. 26.

"The president gave me a message to President Reagan expressing his best wishes for his second term which we hope will be marked by active diplomacy and great efforts to achieve Middle East peace and a just solution to the Palestinian problem," Mr. Reedy said.

"As you know, we have massive and far-reaching relations with the United States and I received directives from the president on these relations, particularly in the

political and economic fields," he added.

He said Mr. Mubarak was having intensive consultations and exchanges of messages with the United States and other countries concerned "with the aim of pushing the Middle East peace process."

Mr. Reedy, a 52-year-old career diplomat, will replace Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal, who has reached the compulsory retirement age of 60.

Prior to his latest appointment, Mr. Reedy held various key posts in the foreign service, heading the permanent mission to the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva and the ministry's international organizations department.

He was a member of the Egyptian delegation that assisted the late President Anwar Sadat in negotiating the 1978 Camp David peace framework agreements with Israel.

Kuwaiti prince meets Iraqi leader

BAGHDAD (R) — Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday during a visit for talks on the four-year-old Iraq-Iran war, diplomats said.

They gave no details of the talks. But the official Iraqi News Agency, INA, said Sheikh Saad, in

a second round of talks with the vice chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim, reiterated Kuwaiti support for Iraq in the war.

Sheikh Saad pointed to dangers faced by the whole Gulf region if the conflict continued, while Mr. Ibrahim reaffirmed the need for a further strengthening of "fraternal relations" between their two countries, the agency said.

Sheikh Saad said on arrival Monday for a two-day visit that his talks would focus on efforts by the Gulf Cooperation Council to find a way to end the conflict at its summit meeting in Kuwait later this month.

15 die in Algerian floods

PARIS (R) — Fifteen people were killed and 21 missing in heavy flooding in western Algeria after two days of torrential rain, the Algerian News Agency APS has said.

The agency, monitored here, said 287 families were homeless and several villages were cut off after 287 millimetres of rain fell following a prolonged drought in the area.

Iraq, Turkey to discuss new pipeline with Italy

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi technical experts flew to Rome Tuesday to talk to an Italian company about engineering details of a new Iraqi oil pipeline through Turkey. Oil Ministry officials said.

They said a similar delegation was due to leave Turkey for Rome later to join the consultations with Italy's Snam Progetti Spa, which won a contract last month to design the pipeline.

The pipeline is intended to help Iraq increase badly needed revenues, squeezed by the war with

Iran which has shut off all oil export routes except a one million barrel per day (bpd) line between Iraq and Turkey.

The new line, expected to carry 500,000 to 600,000 bpd, will parallel it. It is scheduled for completion at the end of 1986.

The delegations are to review the progress made so far by Snam Progetti, which is required by mid-February to prepare design documents and draw up a list of companies to invite to tender for the job.

Turkey, U.S. hold talks on American military aid

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and the United States had talks Tuesday on U.S. military aid and the modernization of Turkey's armed forces, American officials said.

Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle and the Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff, General Necdet Otuzum, headed the two sides in the two-day meeting of the Turkey-U.S. high-level defence group.

U.S. military aid this year is \$700 million plus \$3 million for an officer-exchange training programme. The usually well-

informed Turkish daily Milliyet said Tuesday the Turkish side would seek an increase to \$1.2 billion.

It said topics would include plans for the manufacture in Turkey of an American anti-aircraft missile system, aircraft electronics, attack-type helicopters and frigates.

The two sides will also review the modernisation of Turkey's battle tanks and the production of 160 F-16 fighters due to begin shortly at a plant near Ankara, the paper said.

Festivities mark King's birthday

(Continued from page 1)

carry out voluntary work throughout the Governorate of Irbid. Yarmouk University will take part in the celebrations by holding a cultural event and a variety show of national songs and dances.

In Karak, District Governor Ahmad Al Qur'an said that several marches will be staged in the main streets of the city and sports events will be organised. In Ajloun, youth clubs will organise readings of national songs and music, and will make visits to persons serving jail sentences while schools will organise cultural events and sports tournaments.

Similar activities will be held in Mafraq, to be conducted by youth

clubs and scouts who will stage marches and decorate the city.

Other events and celebrations will be held in Salt, Aqaba, Ma'an, Zarqa, Wadi Mousa and Shobak.

On the eve of the King's birthday, Minister of Energy and Minerals Hisham Al Khatib Tuesday inaugurated two gas-turbine units at Al Muqabein, south of Amman, which have a 30-megawatt capacity. The cost of building the two units was JD 4.385 million, Dr. Khatib said. The two units will be linked to the national power grid and will be operational specially in the evening.

On the occasion of the birthday, King Hussein received congratulatory cables from high-

ranking government officials and prominent Jordanian figures, wishing him a happy life and renewing their vow to continue to serve the country under the leadership of the King.

The cables were sent by Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez respectively, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Hs Shakar, Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, the directors of the General Intelligence and Civil Defence and Public Security Departments, the secretary general of the General Federation of the Jordanian Trade Unions, and heads of official and popular societies in Jordan.

Bourguiba continues to recover

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, 81, is recovering well after admission to the cardiology department of a hospital here eight days ago and Tuesday conferred again with Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali, doctors said.

Jordan to take part in medical conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Medical Association (JMA) will take part in a five day Arab medical conference, due to be held in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Nov. 22.

JMA president, will present a working paper on the Jordanian expertise in the field of medicine and the health situation in the occupied Arab territories.

French operation in Chad ends with mixed results

By Gavin Bell
Reuter

PARIS — France's biggest military operation for more than 20 years has drawn to a close in a remote African desert with hardly a shot fired in anger — and with mixed results.

On the purely military level, the deployment of more than 3,000 troops in support of Chad President Hissene Habre against an offensive by Libyan-backed rebels has been deemed in Paris an outstanding success.

The operation, code-named "Manta" and launched in August last year, ended last weekend when the French force and an estimated 5,000 Libyan soldiers withdrew from Chad in accordance with a disengagement accord reached last September.

It achieved three important military objectives — to prevent the rebels from seizing the capital N'Djamena, to halt a major outbreak of fighting in Chad's 20-year-old civil war and to compel the Libyans to leave the country.

But on the more complex political level, a measure of success was tempered by failure.

The operation may have realised its goal of creating conditions for a peaceful settlement between

Mr. Habre and his adversary Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, but in the event no such accord was reached.

The dust had barely settled behind the departing foreign forces when diplomats in N'Djamena began predicting possible renewed fighting for control of the impoverished, land-locked Central African country.

They recalled how a previous Libyan withdrawal in 1982 led Mr. Habre, then defence minister in a shaky coalition government, to take up arms and overthrow Mr. Goukouni who was then president.

France is clearly prepared to back Mr. Habre again in the event of any future Libyan intervention.

Some 1,000 members of the Manta force have been sent to join a similar number of French troops already based across Chad's southern border in the Central African Republic. In addition, about 100 French military personnel remain in Chad under technical assistance accords.

But Paris appears less committed to being drawn into a purely intercommunal struggle in its former colony, and has indicated it is now up to the Chadians themselves to resolve their conflict.

"Now Chad is restored to the

Chadians... We are not in the habit of interfering in internal affairs," External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said as the withdrawal was completed.

Referring to increasing development aid to Chad, Mr. Cheysson said France was counting on the authorities there "to know how to use this assistance and how to restore peace."

"There are better things to do in that country than wage civil war," he added.

Official concern in Paris about becoming bogged down in a Vietnam-style quagmire is evidently shared by the French public. An opinion poll earlier this year showed that 58 per cent wanted the troops out of Chad, while only 21 per cent felt they should remain.

On a more positive note, French officials believe Manta removed a threat of instability spreading through the heart of Africa, and reassured friendly countries in the region of France's resolve to help defend them in an emergency.

Defence Minister Charles Hernu and government colleagues repeatedly made it clear they regarded Libya's involvement in Chad as posing a wider threat to black, and in particular Fra-

ncophone, African states.

"Should we have allowed the destabilisation of Africa?" Mr. Hernu asked rhetorically last April. "Of course not. That is what operation Manta is all about. It is a positive action of security and vigilance."

A few days later government spokesman Max Gallo was more specific.

"France intervened to preserve the independence of Chad and to prevent the destabilisation of the whole of black Francophone Africa," he said.

While the politicians debate the aftermath of Manta, the French military is congratulating itself on the smooth running of its biggest operation since the Algerian war of independence ended in 1962.

Some 20,000 people were involved in deploying and supporting the French force, ferrying out 12,000 tonnes of freight ranging from spare parts for fighter-bombers and armoured cars to supplies of frozen food and crates of wine.

Officers were particularly pleased with the performance of their AMX 10 RC armoured cars, dubbed "the rolls of the desert" by the unit commander, in testing operational conditions.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL	659, 720, 1413 KHz
15:00 Koran	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Waveguide Report
15:10 Cartoons	06:30 Newsweek 07:00 World
15:20 Children's Programmes	07:00 World News 07:30 News Summary
15:30 Foreign Film	07:30 What's New 07:45 The World
15:45 Special Programme	07:45 World News 08:30 Omnibus
15:50 News Programme	08:30 World News 09:00 24 Hours
15:55 News Summary	09:00 News Summary 09:30 Report on Religion
16:00 News in Arabic	09:30 What's That? 10:00 The First
16:05 Poetry	10:00 World News 10:30 Reflections
16:10 Special Programme	10:30 Classical Record Review 10:30 Talking
16:15 Arabic Series	about Music 11:00 World News 11:00
16:20 Tomorrow's Programmes	British Press Review 11:15 The World
16:25 Arabic Series (Week 1)	Today 11:30 Financial News 11:30 Look
16:30 News in Arabic	Ahead 11:45 The Brotherhood of Brans
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	marines 12:30 My Music 12:30 World
	News 12:30 News about Britain 13:15
	Letter from London 13:30 Meridian
	14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Nature
	Notebook 14:25 The Farming World
	14:30 Sports Review 14:35 World
	News 14:45 24 Hours: News Summary
	15:30 The Ideal Case 16:00 News Sum-
	mary: Outlook 16:45 Report on Religion
	17:00 Sports Review 17:05 World
	News: Commentary 17:15 Talk: Letter
	from London 17:30 Top Twenty
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Home news

King visits Jeber family to extend condolences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday paid a visit to the home of the late Salah Jeber to extend condolences to the Jeber family on the death of Salah who passed away on Sunday as a result of a severe heart attack.

Before his death, Salah Jeber was the director of the Jordanian television station in radio programming, one of the most successful and popular programmes, which is broadcast every morning between 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Salah Jeber has also worked with the Jordan Television and was in charge of a television programme entitled Panorama, in addition to other programmes. During his work with the media he was loyal and dedicated to his profession.



Salah Jeber

Anani heads team to OIC economy talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and Dr. Fayed Al Tarawneh, the economic adviser at the Prime Ministry, Tuesday left for Istanbul to head Jordan's delegation to the three-day meetings of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation which will be held in Istanbul on Wednesday.

During the three-day conference, participants will discuss a number of issues, pertaining to economic and commercial cooperation among 45 OIC member states and will discuss a report on this subject. They will also discuss drawing up new plans for consolidating and developing such cooperation.

Jordan's delegation to the meeting comprises Dr. Ibrahim Badran and Mr. Thabet Odeh from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive a U.S. Congress delegation at Al Nadwa Palace Tuesday (Petra photo)

Hussein briefs U.S. Congressmen on Middle East developments

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday received at Al Nadwa Palace a three person U.S. Congress delegation. The three U.S. Congressmen, Paul Trible, Don Bonker and Bill Nelson, are currently on a visit to Jordan.

During the audience King Hussein reviewed with the de-

velopments of the situation in the Middle East and the historical and political background of the Palestinian question. King Hussein reiterated that security, stability and peace can not be achieved in this area without finding a just and comprehensive solution along the lines of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a total Israeli

withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

The audience was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and American Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker.

Abdul Jaber patronises community celebration

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jaber made his first public appearance as Minister of Labour and Social Development at Hamalan Community Development Centre Tuesday where he patronised the graduation ceremony for trainees of vocational training courses.

In his opening speech, Dr. Abdul Jaber expressed his pleasure in patronising the 'festival of hope and offer', which is being held to celebrate the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

"As His Majesty always says, Jordan is to be valued by its citizens, who are the most precious and constructive pillars of Jordanian civilisation," said Dr. Abdul Jaber.

"This is my first appearance after my appointment as Minister of Labour and Social Development, therefore, I assure you that our ministry is ready to help the community. A minister is from the people and his commitment is to serve the people. Our doors are

open to all of you who have problems or complaints," the minister added.

Dr. Abdul Jaber explained the process of social development as a 'two-way process' which should involve both the government and the citizens which he said is inseparable. He also noted that joint work is the solid ground on which all social work and development should be based. The new generation should be raised on trust, hope and the spirit of cooperation rather than on selfishness. Dr. Abdul Jaber also expressed his willingness to support the centre to fulfill its role in community development.

The minister then presented certificates to 35 graduates who trained in secretarial work, sewing, weaving and hairdressing.

Dr. Abdul Jaber toured the various sections of the handicrafts exhibition where various items produced by the trainees were on show including hand-made flowers, knitwear, dresses, skirts, traditional Jordanian dresses, rugs and macramé. The centre was inaugurated in 1982.

Obeid cancels truck tonnage charge

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport Minister Farhi Obeid has decided to cancel an earlier decision by his ministry to collect JD 2 per each tonne in excess of the prescribed load of trucks carrying goods from Aqaba to various parts of Jordan. Mr. Obeid also decided to amend the airport taxi rate to become 150 fils upon first taking the car and then to charge 10 fils per each 118 metres in addition to 10 fils per each 48 seconds of waiting. Taxis going to the airport, excluding the airport taxis, may charge JD 1 in addition to the rate appearing on the metre fitted in their cars.

Lebanon rejects deal

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli drive against Amal political leaders showed it was trying to force the movement to stop resistance operations during the talks.

But he said he sees armed resistance in the south as Lebanon's "main card" in military discussions on ending Israel's two-and-a-half year occupation.

"The Israelis are not only trying to sabotage the talks, they are also trying to take away our main card, which is the resistance. What else do we have?" he told Reuters.

"No way will I stop the attacks until the last Israeli soldier leaves my country," Mr. Berri said. "Why? Because if you go back to United Nations statements the law is on our side."

"We are not terrorists. We are on our own territory. I am not in Haifa. It is they who are in Tyre," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quoted by Israel Radio as telling a parliamentary committee that he expected the talks to resume soon.

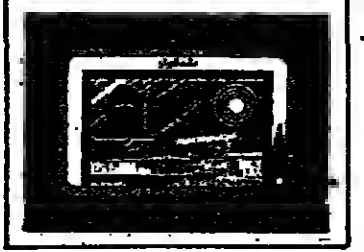
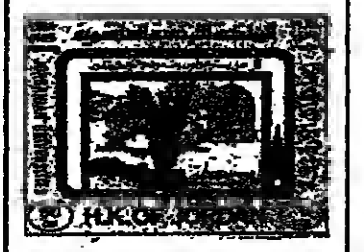
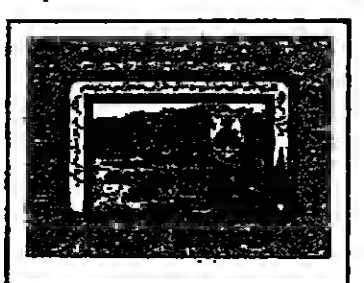
However, an Israeli government official rejected the idea of any linkage between restarting the talks and a release of the prisoners.

Israel Radio said that it was expected that the detained Shites would be released before or during the talks. The radio said they would probably be sent to Beirut, out of Israel's occupation zone.

Rare unusual Chinese and Jordanian stamps give interesting historical record of postal services

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With a history that extends back more than 3,000 years, the Chinese postal service is probably the oldest in the world. Jordan's postal service is perhaps one of the more recent ones, but despite their differences the



Ministry of Communications stamps issued to mark the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein. The stamps bear illustrations of the three Jordanian universities and are in 40, 50 and 125 fils denominations.

stamps from the two countries, now on show at the Royal Cultural Centre, make an interesting and at times beautiful miniature display. The exhibition, the first of its kind, is being organised by the Chinese Embassy on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, in cooperation with the Jordan Philatelic Club and the Ministry of Communications. Depicting everything from the different types of edible mushrooms and medicinal herbs found in China, through the facial makeup used in the Beijing Opera, to the Chinese ceramics of the Cizhou kilns and the ancient Qin terracotta figures, the 118 editions supplied by the embassy, represent only some of the many wonderful stamps issued in China in the last few years. 480 sets bearing 2,000 designs having been issued since 1949, the year of the founding of the People's Republic. The designs all have a distinctly Chinese flavour, something that is achieved by the blending of traditional Chinese painting with woodcut techniques.

Private collections

The oldest Chinese stamps at this exhibition, however, have been supplied by Ibrahim Marajan, who has as part of his own private collection, one of the first sets of modern Chinese stamps — the "Great Dragon of the Customs" which was issued in 1878. From his remarkable and unique collection, Mr. Marajan has supplied many other interesting stamps, both Jordanian and Chinese in origin.

Other members of the Philatelic Club are also displaying stamps of both countries from their col-

Zawaideh returns from Tunis meeting

Arab ministers to publicise Zionist 'colonial policies'

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab ministers of Housing and Reconstruction have decided to issue a book on the inherent dangers of Zionist colonial policies in Arab lands. The book will be compiled in coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Arab League.

This was announced Tuesday by Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Al Zawaideh on his return to Amman following a meeting of the Arab ministers held recently in Tunis.

Mr. Zawaideh also said that the housing and reconstruction ministers also discussed a Jordanian memo about Zionist colonial projects in the occupied Arab lands and another note from PLO dealing with the same subject.

The ministers also requested Arab governments to follow up the implementation of U.N. resolutions issued in Gabon last May about dispatching U.N.-teams on fact finding missions in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Zawaideh said. He added that the ministers also decided to implement a

housing project for Palestinians in the occupied lands and to discuss ways to carry out such a project through specialised U.N. agencies.

Arab World housing

The ministers, he said, discussed housing projects in the Arab World and cooperation among Arab states to implement them by employing local expertise. They also reviewed the effects of Zionist settlement projects on Arab states and ways to confront them.

The ministers decided to hold a seminar on environment in the Arab World and another on disorganised building projects in Morocco in April of the coming year, Mr. Zawaideh said.

Communications Ministry is trying to develop, improve services, Zaben says

Intelsat delegation reviews satellite communications

Dr. Zaben Tuesday received a delegation representing the International Satellite Organisation (Intelsat) who are currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour in the Arab countries. During the meeting Dr. Zaben stressed the important role played by Intelsat in providing satellite communication services of a high standard on both national and international levels.

As part of Jordan's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, Dr. Zaben said that the ministry has started converting the manual telephone service in Qwameh area, in the outskirts of Amman, into a mechanical one. He also said the ministry will meet the requests for telephones by 855 people in Ashrafieh area.

Dr. Zaben also said the ministry has invited those who applied for telephones in the centre of Amman to pay 25 per cent of the telephone fees in preparation for installing the telephone lines from the distribution boxes to their houses and shops.

The remaining 75 per cent, Dr. Zaben said, will have to be paid at a later stage once their shops and houses are connected to the electronic switchboard which will be commissioned in the near future.

Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (right) meets Tuesday with a delegation representing the International Satellite Organisation (Petra photo)

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Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (right) meets Tuesday with a delegation representing the International

Lebanon: A pluralistic democratic nation

By Musa Keilani

WITH THE Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal talks suspended this week, it is clear that the present situation in Lebanon is likely to continue for some time: with the same intermittent eruption in Beirut of sniper fire and rocket launchers.

Accusations and recrimination will continue between Muslim, Druze and Christian militia. The Israelis are no longer adamant about a simultaneous troop withdrawal from Lebanon. The Syrians as well cannot afford to keep their troops in Lebanon indefinitely. But both the Syrians and the

Israelis are equally keen to leave behind an indigenous Lebanese power to safeguard their own respective interests. So far, Damascus managed to consolidate its political grip on the Beirut government of Mr. Karami, as well as on the Lebanese Army, the Druze militia and the Shi'a Amal. The Sunni Muslims and the Orthodox Christians will be the ultimate losers in any final settlement, since they have no strong militias with enough firepower to assert themselves.

The Syrians could withdraw at a later stage and leave pro-

Syrian forces, politically and militarily, to look after that sphere of influence. When Damascus is physically extricated from that imbric, clandestine and open support can easily reach various pro-Syrian factions. But such a course of action will reflect negatively against Assad's position in Syria itself where the population has been conditioned to perceive the big sacrifices in Lebanon on the basis of ideological precepts which defend "the unity and Arabism of sisterly Lebanon. The legitimacy and credibility of the Assad

regime depend on his performance in Lebanon. It is within this framework that many Arab observers see the presidential decree on 10th November 1984, re-appointing vice-president Rifa' al-Assad in charge of both national and "regional" security.

The Syrians need to assess carefully the full costs before issuing withdrawal orders.

But many moderate Arab states share the fear of a radical pro-Soviet takeover in Lebanon. Since the visit to Lebanon of Ali Heider Rida Aliev,

the Soviet Deputy Premier, East European Countries welcomed thousands of Shi'a Amal militia and Druze militia for advanced military training. The Lebanese Army was offered Soviet tanks and anti-aircraft missiles. The offer has not been accepted yet.

A pro-Soviet Lebanon will prove to be dangerously disruptive to the area as a whole and to Lebanese Security in particular. Within this context, observers see the Rifa'ah role for the last three years in subsidising and re-building Lebanon as very constructive.

Dividing Lebanon into five cantons, something similar to Switzerland, will only exacerbate the enigma of ethnic, racial and religious mosaics. All efforts should be exerted to restore a unified Lebanese government and to prevent partition of the country. It is regrettable that Lebanon has been viewed solely in terms of the Israel-PLO-Syrian problem with little attention paid to Lebanon as Lebanon or to the Lebanese people as Lebanese. It is in the interest of all concerned to restore Lebanon as an independent, democratic and pluralistic nation.

Proud of Hussein

JORDAN TODAY celebrates His Majesty King Hussein's 49th birthday anniversary; one that reminds Jordanians of the monarch's long endeavours to serve his country and the Arab Nation at large.

King Hussein, who acceded to the throne in 1952 and assumed his constitutional powers in 1973, was handed the leadership of a nation at a fairly young age, but ever since he has handled the affairs of the country so expertly, and despite Jordan's meagre resources has managed to realise many achievements that won him the appreciation of his countrymen and the respect of the world.

Indeed, the King's name has become linked with Jordan, which has acquired the reputation of an oasis of stability and progress in the heart of a turbulent Middle East.

On the domestic front, the King strove to help his countrymen carry out successful development projects aimed at raising the social and cultural standards of the population. Special attention under his reign has been directed to building up the Jordanian Armed Forces and equipping them with the most up-to-date weapons to defend the nation.

A visitor to Jordan before and after the development projects were initiated would clearly see the great difference in the country's progress during King Hussein's rule.

On the regional level, King Hussein has been instrumental in mobilising Arab countries' efforts towards achieving solidarity and unity. Indeed, he has been an active key figure in all Arab summit conferences, first held in Cairo in 1964, up to the 1982 Fez Summit in Morocco.

In keeping with Arab aspirations and unanimity, King Hussein has turned down unilateral and separate peace bids, out of a sense of belonging to the Arab Nation and in his belief in joint Arab action to achieve a just and durable solution to the Palestine problem based on total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands including Jerusalem.

The King can look back and be proud of what he has achieved for his country, and the Jordanian people can take pride in having King Hussein at the helm to direct the destiny of Jordan with wisdom, care and responsibility.

The public holiday, the various festivities to be held in Jordanian cities, which are bedecked with decorative signs, posters and portraits of the King, reflect only part of the deep affection of our people for the leader, a people who deeply appreciate the sacrifices King Hussein has offered them to help them realise a better future.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: PNC should succeed

A PALESTINIAN statement issued Monday announced that the Palestine National Council meeting will be held in Amman on Nov. 22. The announcement followed prolonged meetings and contacts among Palestinian groups who support or oppose the convening of the meeting and who insist on their demands being met first.

Amman has always been open for Arab meetings that would unify and mobilise Arab ranks. Amman is also the nearest Arab capital to the occupied Arab lands and its people are closely connected with those now living under Israeli rule.

Amman is keen on holding the meeting and sincerely hopes that the Palestinians will find a formula that can end their disputes and unify their ranks. For those who still insist on not attending, they must realise that their manoeuvres are bound to lead to one thing: big loss for the Palestinians and their cause. A loss for the Palestinians means a loss for all Arabs.

Those who will attend must realise that at present there are no new initiatives for solving the Palestine problem and the only alternative before them is to join, their ranks and work together for liberating their homeland.

Al Distour: No dramatic change

REPORTS FROM Washington indicate that President Reagan will in the coming week hold meetings with his chief advisers to lay down the groundwork for the administration's foreign policy for the coming four years. In fact some of these advisers have already worked out some points to submit to the president. These mainly concern world issues including the Middle East question.

We do not expect that a dramatic change will come over U.S. policy towards the Middle East neither do we expect any change in U.S. support for Israel. Perhaps there will be some change with regard to the U.S. policy towards nuclear arms, and the deployment of missiles in Europe and the situation in southern Africa, but the Middle East will not figure high in the new American policy.

We are bound to believe so, first in view of President Reagan's promises to the Zionists during his presidential campaign, and secondly, in the light of the recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which he promised the Zionists that Reagan will not announce any plans for the Middle East before first consulting with Israel. This means that the U.S. will remain committed to its alliance with Israel, completely biased against all that is good for the Arabs. Therefore one cannot expect any improvement in the situation, but rather further escalation of tension in the region.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.S.-Israeli pretexts

THE INCONSISTENCY in American policy has cost Washington its credibility in our Arab region. It is based on supporting the Israeli aggressors whether their aggression was directed against Lebanon or Palestine.

When the U.S. suspended the initiative of President Reagan, it said that it was because the PLO had refused to recognise Israel not, because the Israelis had rejected the initiative outright. The initiative came to tackle the Middle East issue and not to see whether the PLO will recognise Israel or not. The Reagan initiative came long after the PLO was formed in the region and was made due to the presence of a crisis in the region resulting from Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

Similarly, the U.S. realises that the Lebanese question stems from the presence of the invading Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, but it tends to ignore this fact, and finds pretexts for not solving the issue by saying it is due to disagreements within the Lebanese government, that there can be no progress in talks for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The talks were originally initiated not because there are disputes among the Lebanese ministers over other affairs but because Israel occupies southern Lebanon.

'Arms control talks, Mideast high on Reagan's agenda'

By Rana Sabbagh and Salameh Ne'mat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders discussed with panelists here the prospects of renewed U.S. diplomatic moves in the Middle East in the aftermath of the re-election of President Ronald Reagan.

Speaking at a telepress conference held by the American Centre last Thursday, Mr. Saunders said the Middle East issue will be high on the U.S. foreign policy agenda. "The Reagan administration will have some progress going but what is more important is where the various parties in the area stand."

Responding to questions by four panelists: Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh, Mr. Mohammad Milhem and Mr. George Hawatmeh, Mr. Saunders

said that however, the U.S.-Soviet arms control talks represent a higher priority on the foreign policy agenda.

"There will be an assessment on whether people in the Middle East are ready to move," Mr. Saunders said. He added that with President Reagan's current popularity he has the capacity to forcefully present a new initiative. "However, it will be some time before we can see positive manifestations of his move."

Answering a question on whether the U.S. will be involving the Soviet Union in any peace efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mr. Saunders said that for the time being "it is premature for such a thing to happen." However, he agreed that Soviet involvement "is an important card in the process for peace in the region."

Regarding Soviet involvement, Mr. Saunders said that nevertheless there should be a thorough assessment of the situation in the area because "the Soviet

Union and the U.S. might agree on things that parties in the Middle East might not agree to."

"We have to see what is politically workable in the Middle East to have the support needed" for any initiative or move to succeed.

On the issue of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, Mr. Saunders said the idea "does not look like a very helpful step." He said that it was not clear what the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reaction would be in the light of the divisions in its ranks.

He added that there was no clear-cut assessment whether Jordan, the PLO and Israel were "eagerly poised" and ready to go for a major international conference. However, the PLO has recently endorsed the idea of holding the conference. Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Soviet Union all called for the holding of the conference, which was opposed by Israel and the

United States.

On prospects of a U.S. participation in such a conference, Mr. Saunders indicated that there has to be a lot of preparatory work "before we know whether the conference would work. I myself think the Soviets would agree with me there should be preparatory work before a conference is called."

Mr. Saunders, commenting on the 1982 Reagan plan and the Fez declaration, said there should be more work on the political foundations for the development of the two initiatives. He did not rule out the possibility of a "modification" of the Reagan plan.

On the Palestinian role in the peace process, Mr. Saunders said the U.S. administration recognises the importance of a Palestinian participation in any negotiating efforts.

He urged Israel and the PLO to recognise each other to revitalise the peace process. He said the

U.S. is working closely with each of the states involved in the conflict "to know the steps to be taken towards a settlement."

Mr. Saunders spoke about "many forces in the area working to undermine the U.S. peace process."

He called on Jordanians and Palestinians "to take a step which could make it politically impossible for the U.S. to ignore it." However, he said the Fez declaration was "not enough to provoke a U.S. response."

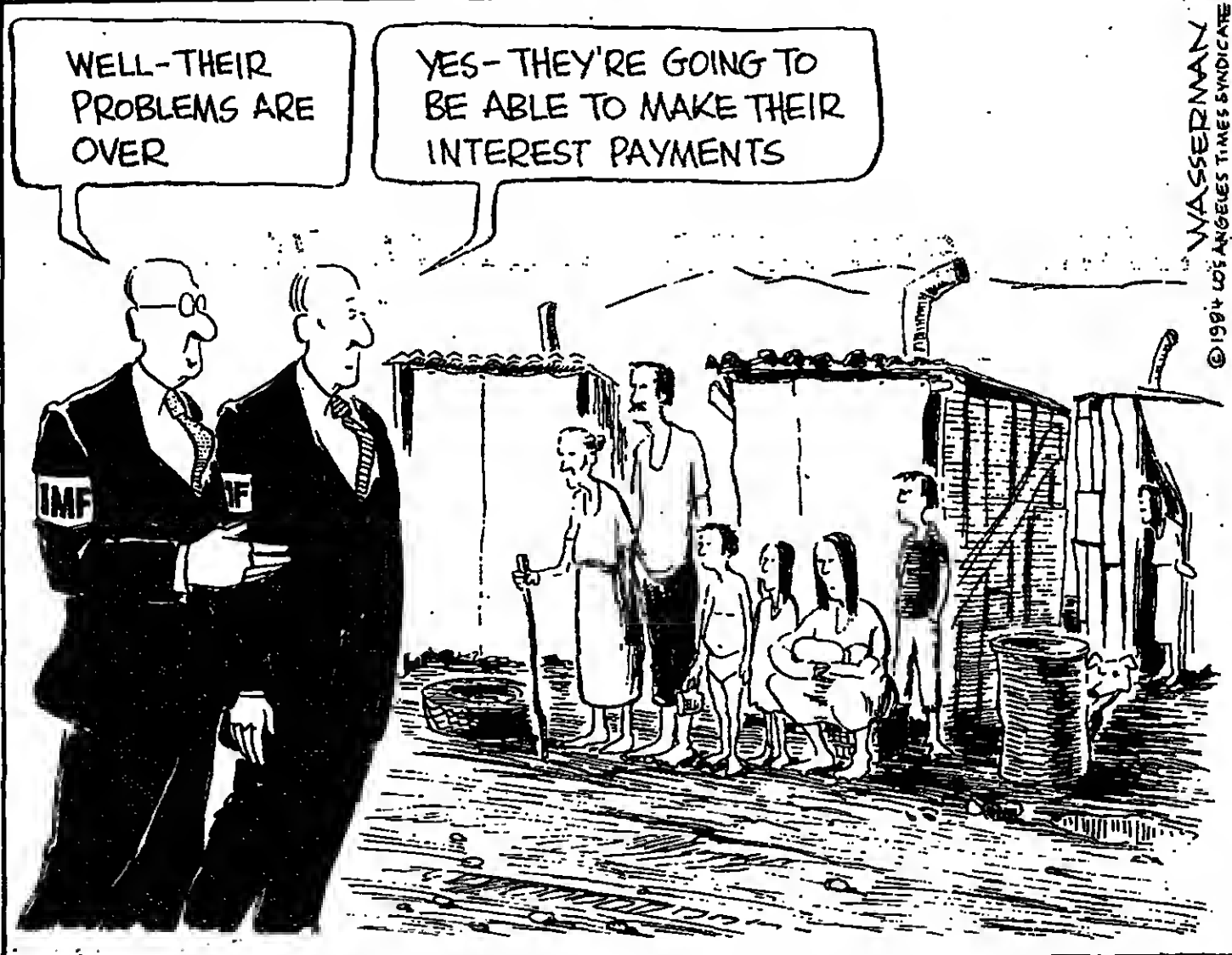
Asked whether the present Israeli government's composition was capable of deciding on an initiative, Mr. Saunders described the Israeli government as "a very unusual coalition which is unable with its current structure to take such decisions."

"If Israel is to withdraw from the West Bank, it will be a moment of a heated national debate and argument and maybe would lead to violence," he said. "I do

not think that the Peres government could handle something like that."

Commenting on possible changes in the U.S. Congress after the new elections, Mr. Saunders said that probably there will not be major changes in the near future in the administration itself. "President Reagan is inclined to work along with the existing team but in my personal speculation, I do not see a major change apart from the defeat of Senator Charles Percy."

Mr. Saunders observed that there is a majority of people who are in favour of an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and who recognise Palestinian self-determination. What needs to be done, Mr. Saunders said, is to ask Israel whether the Palestinians are ready to make peace with Israel on a reciprocal basis. He added that a clear-cut statement by the PLO would play a major role in any political debate.



Chirac sparks row on abortion

By Irma Bossy-Ghica
Reuters

PARIS — French rightwing opposition leader Jacques Chirac has sparked fresh controversy by saying he is against free abortion, in spite of a law passed when he was prime minister nine years ago.

Mr. Chirac, head of the Neo-Gaullist (RPR) Party and mayor of Paris, told the leftwing daily Liberation that he was appalled by the demographic decline of Western Europe and that he was opposed to abortion "as a common practice in France."

His views triggered criticism from both right and left, and an opinion poll published recently showed that 62 per cent of the French approved of the abortion law, with only 26 per cent against.

The 1975 bill, passed under a centre-right government, was a temporary law until it was made permanent in 1979 under Raymond Barre. Mr. Chirac's successor as prime minister.

Mr. Chirac refused to vote for the law in 1979, saying it had not fulfilled its provisions and that it neglected one of the major concerns of its authors: a respect for human life.

He told Liberation this month he now wanted the law to be reviewed, especially since the Socialist government had allowed



Jacques Chirac
abortion to be reimbursed by the state since 1982.

"I don't want our great-grandchildren to say, in a century's time, that we were irresponsible and deliberately sacrificed (France's) future," Mr. Chirac said.

Immediately after his remarks, former Health Minister Simone Veil, a member of the European Parliament and author of the 1975 bill, said on television that abolition of the law would mean a return to anarchy, social and financial injustice.

Mrs. Veil said the legalisation of abortion had little if any influence on the birthrate in France and that all demographic studies confirmed this view.

She rejected Mr. Chirac's argument that abortion could become commonplace and said the decision to terminate a pregnancy was a decision which would always

have a tremendous psychological impact on a woman's conscience. However, she did agree with Mr. Chirac, a close personal friend, on the need for new family legislation which would encourage women to have children.

Worried about a drop in the birth rate over the last five years, the government has been encouraging people to have more children. The Ministry for Social Affairs has prepared a bill on this subject which was presented to the cabinet recently.

Mrs. Veil said the birthrate had begun to decline in France in the 18th century and had slumped even further in the mid-1960s, well before the widespread use of the contraceptive pill and at a time when abortion was illegal.

This analysis has been endorsed by Socialist Minister for Women's Rights Yvette Roudy, who rules out any link between the number of children per family and the law on abortion.

In a speech in the National Assembly, Ms. Roudy accused Mr. Chirac of expressing old-fashioned views and said his main intention was to win over potential voters of Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme rightwing National Front, who has frequently spoken against contraception and abortion.

Ms. Roudy said France's abor-

tion law had not coincided with any spectacular jump in the number of abortions, but added that statistics were much more accurate now than in the past.

In 1976, one year after the law was passed, 134,000 abortions were recorded in France. In 1983, one year after the Socialists allowed the state to pay, the figure was 182,000, she said.

Ms. Roudy said that France, with an average of 1.8 children per family, had a birth rate far higher than many developed countries, including West Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Austria.

And as further proof of what she described as the irrelevance of any parallel between a low birthrate and free abortion, she said the number of births in France, Britain and several other European countries had risen in 1981, marking a general socio-economical trend.

Mr. Barre, now a leading opposition figure, also condemned on television the principle of a return to the pre-1975 situation, saying women ought to be trusted as responsible citizens.

Mr. Chirac said later that his remarks illustrated only his personal views, and his recent book on the RPR's political strategy for the future does not mention abor-

Pinochet's tactics spur opposition

By Jimmy Burns

SANTIAGO — The violence of Chile's street demonstrations at the end of October and general strike on Oct. 31 point to a qualitative change in the opposition to the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. But the new, tougher tactics adopted by the government have left few in any doubt that the president intends to hang on to power whatever the odds.

In spite of government claims to the contrary, the general strike, the first in 11 years of military rule, seems to have been a great deal more successful than many predicted. The city of Santiago was brought to a halt by the virtual paralysis of the bus service and the security forces failed to prevent the violence in the suburbs from spilling over into the centre of the capital.

The poor neighbourhoods which dot the outskirts of Santiago became virtual "no-go" areas, with barricades set up, Molotov cocktails thrown and tyres burned. Until recently the government has been successful in insulating the poor areas from a wider sector of public opinion, but tension there has increased in response to the brutal tactics adopted by the paramilitary carabineros, and to the recent economic measures, including a 23.6 per cent devaluation of the peso, which have greatly increased prices.

Before the general strike trade unions had demanded higher salaries and a freeze on the price of basic necessities, but some union leaders, including the head of the important copper workers, thought that people would ignore the strike call for fear of being laid off.

But poverty is now reaching such extremes that many were prepared to take the risk.

The change in the tactics of the regime may be even more significant. By ruling out any possibility of dialogue with the opposition, President Pinochet appears to have signalled the end of a limited relaxation of policy which had been remarkably successful in confusing and weakening the political parties.

Until very recently some moderates in the opposition had thought that a veiled suggestion that the regime might consider congressional elections before 1989 — the date the constitution fixes for the presidential election — plus the return of several hundred exiles, a draft law envisaging the legalisation of political parties, and the lifting of censorship meant that a negotiated transition to democracy might be possible.

This attitude had separated into rival factions the two main opposition groupings, the Christian Democrat Alianza Democratica and the Communist-led MDP, unable to agree on the lessons to be drawn from the past or the strategies to be applied in the future.

In contrast to the cautious strategy favoured by the Alianza, the Chilean Communists a few weeks ago publicly announced their support for a violent overthrow of the regime and their tacit approval of a spate of terrorist bombings.

The split in the opposition was evident in the Communist refusal to back the Christian Democrats inspired "constitutional pact" — a manifesto uniting all civilian groupings in a common commitment to Parliamentary democracy and the defence of human rights. The Christian Democrats, for their part, refused to support the recent protests.

Such divisions could now dissipate, however. The success of the strike, coupled with President Pinochet's refusal to talk is expected to close opposition ranks with the Alianza turning more militant so as not to risk being outflanked by the MDP.

The Alianza continues to seek inspiration from the Church, which is adopting an increasing critical distance from the regime. The bishops have publicly insisted on a definite timetable for an early transition to democracy and warned that the inflexibility of President Pinochet can only lead to increased violence and social disruption.

It is no small irony that the same regime which 11 years ago was seen by Washington as the main bastion against Communism is beginning to gain the reputation as the principal destabiliser in the Southern cone.

President Pinochet's ability to survive such pressures continues to hinge on his control of the armed forces. There has been nothing like the Falklands which exposed military rivalries in Argentina and unleashed the civilian opposition against the discredited men in uniform.

On the contrary, in Chile Gen. Pinochet has not only kept his men out of a potentially humiliating conflict by ending the longstanding territorial dispute with Argentina over the Beagle Channel, he has also courted and split them to the point that he enjoys virtually absolute loyalty.

Wages of all ranks have been kept high and the three services have been entitled to a seemingly endless supply of sophisticated weaponry, thanks to a defence budget estimated at over \$1.6 billion so far this year.

In spite of these palliatives, however, some cracks have begun to appear in the hitherto solid military edifice.

Air Force Commander Brigadier Gen. Fernando Marshall is increasingly distancing himself from President Pinochet's uncompromising attitude towards the opposition.

"The only way I am going to leave the presidency," declared Gen. Pinochet recently, "is by force." But there are at least some officers who are apparently unwilling to tempt fate so openly.

Financial Times News Service

Famine: Why West wakes up too late

Why does aid have to be rushed to famine regions like Ethiopia when warning signs can be seen weeks and months in advance? Slowness in getting the information to the right quarters is one reason, reports Andrew Gowers. Even when the warning signs have been heeded, bureaucracy and politics can delay the response.

LONDON — "When does disaster become 'disaster'? How is it that bad news can be ignored and then suddenly reach such a state of critical mass as to become an international cause celebre?"

The superficial answer to these questions, posed by the journalist William Shawcross in his new book on aid to Kampuchea, will be obvious to anyone who had watched television or read newspapers in the past two weeks. Film of Ethiopians, with bulging, malnourished bellies and hollow faces, dying by the hundreds, has stirred Britain and other Western countries.

But Ethiopia has been on the verge of disaster since its last famine in 1973, and suffering deeply for at least 18 months. And the sad fact is that while relief agencies believe at least 13 countries — 12 in Africa plus Bangladesh — now face critical food problems, the international community is little more prepared to deal with them than it was a decade ago. Why?

The problem appears to be fourfold. First, and most obviously, once a famine has reached the proportions of a major disaster, it is simply too late to mount a fast and effective rescue operation. As is clear in the case of Ethiopia, even if supplies are rushed to the country's ports, bottlenecks in distribution conspire to choke the relief effort.

Secondly, those bodies with the resources to deal with large-scale emergencies such as famines tend by definition to be governmental organisations. They are, for a whole host of reasons, not geared to making a quick or flexible response.

But the voluntary agencies, which can be faster on their feet and are usually less entwined with international politics, are neither designed nor equipped to cope with supplying starving multitudes.

The difficulties are compounded by the almost universally acknowledged inadequacies of information on food shortages. Insofar as it is a science at all, famine forecasting is still very much in its infancy.

The single most important difficulty facing official or semi-

official relief organisations is precisely their status: they are no more immune than any other national or international public body from politics and lethargic bureaucracy.

The big U.S. humanitarian relief organisations, Care and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), with budgets of \$242 million and \$345 million a year respectively, function largely as dispensers of U.S. government food aid under its 30-year-old "Food for Peace" programme. Thus, although they claim to be apolitical, experienced observers believe that they have to be attentive to the vagaries and preferences of American foreign policy.

The other big international food donors — the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) and the European Community — have their own problems. For one thing, they need an official invitation before they can help a stricken country. This presupposes that the government concerned is aware of or cares about rural famine; that is capable of putting together the necessary technical case for aid in time; that it wants to broadcast its problems to the wider world; and that it wants primarily Western organisations on its territory in the first place. It also presupposes that Western governments feel disposed to help.

"If the local government information systems are not working, the situation is not known until people are dying," said one British government official.

Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission is acknowledged to have put together a series of well-substantiated appeals in the past two years, to which many Western governments did respond within their limited aid budgets.

Allegations that the West was trying to "starve the Marxist Ethiopian government out" do not stand serious examination, although longer-term aid programmes have not been well-funded for political reasons, among others.

But there are plenty of examples where relief was too slow or too small because politics, ignorance or incompetence put a

spoke in the wheel.

However, the main charge laid at the door of the WFP and the EEC is their slowness to respond. The famine in Uganda's Karamoja region in 1980-81 was a case in point, according to a recent report by Dr. Frances D'Souza, research director of the London-based International Disaster Institute (IDI).

The signs that mass starvation was on the way — such as a rapid rise in grain prices, and migrations of large numbers of emaciated people to relief points — had been visible throughout the second half of 1979. But it was not until May 1980 that the international relief operation began in earnest.

In spite of the fact that most of the U.N. humanitarian agencies had senior representatives in Kampala throughout 1979, there was apparently little sense of urgency in dealing with the emerging famine to the north-east of the capital," Dr. D'Souza concludes.

Even when an agency is aware of a disaster as it happens, the organisation is rarely in a position to rush food to the spot, partly because its food aid — whether for long-term development projects or for "emergency relief" — is often committed long in advance. More than six months usually elapse between a request for aid to the WFP and the delivery of the food. The EEC sometimes takes a good deal longer.

Privately, officials make no bones about it: although WFP spends about a third of its resources, or about 560,000 tonnes of food, on emergencies, it is not geared to responding to disasters which emerge suddenly.

"The world just does not have the capability to respond quickly," said one. "If countries wait for the international community to respond with food aid, the chances are that people will starve to death."

The only answer is strategic stocks, kept in countries which are likely to suffer food deficits. Yet many countries in that category are among the world's poorest and certainly cannot afford to finance a stock from one year to the next, even if the food is available. Neither is there any help available from the WFP for this purpose, although the possibility of providing some has been under discussion for some time.

But stocks need proper storage facilities, organisation and sup-

ervision. Many aid workers fear that in famine-prone countries, they would tend to spoil or be stolen.

A possible half-way house is for donor countries to keep stocks for the purposes of emergency aid themselves. At the moment, they have to go through cumbersome tendering procedures for emergency supplies. The WFP is working, meanwhile, to build up its own small strategic reserves at ports such as Singapore.

Above all, the crying need is for proper information on the development of a famine. The distinction here is between basic statistics on crop failures or droughts, and the study of more finely-tuned data, such as the movements of local prices or mass migrations of people from their homes.

There is certainly no shortage of the former — from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation, its Disaster Relief Organisation (which is basically just a clearing-house for information), or U.S. satellite surveys.

The FAO regularly puts out reports warning of catastrophe in more than 20 countries. But independent aid experts, and even some government economists, believe such appeals can be counter-productive, in that they fail to differentiate qualitatively between the urgency of the situation in each country. They may thus blunt the West's ability to help.

"Some communities have sustained chronic food shortages for five to six years without famine setting in," says the International Disaster Institute's Dr. Robin Stephenson. "Famine is different. It's a social collapse rather than a strictly nutritional event. Remote sensing by satellite can tell you when there's been a crop failure, but not how people respond."

Such detailed research is very low on most governments' list of priorities. And it has to be said that there are tremendous political obstacles to carrying it out.

For most of the countries which would be expected to allow monitoring of this kind are hooked on the debilitating drug of food aid. As one official said: "It's cheaper to get food free than to grow it themselves."

The voluntary relief agencies — the Oxfams and Red Crosses of this world — are acutely aware of this deficiency. For it is they

who are forced to carry the can when a famine explodes into a media event.

There are five major relief agencies in Britain, grouped under the loose umbrella of the Disaster Emergency Committee: Oxfam; Save the Children Fund; Christian Aid; the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development; and the British Red Cross. Their budgets are all minuscule by comparison with those of the 'big official organisations; Oxfam's total income — the largest of the five — last financial year was £24 million (\$30 million).

Furthermore, with the exception of the Red Cross, which focuses on disasters, all the agencies see themselves more as providers of long-term and fairly small-scale development assistance such as water projects or nutrition programmes, than as emergency relief outfits.

Yet they are being forced to devote more and more of their money to disasters. A third of Oxfam's overseas aid spending in the most recent financial year was for that purpose, a dramatic proportional increase over 1982-83.

"With the situation as it is, we find we are spending more of our income than we would like on disaster relief," said Christian Aid. "Oxfam is not meant to be a fire brigade," said the charity's disaster coordinator, Mr. Marcus Thompson.

In one sense, the publicity is a boon to the agencies. In the week after the showing of the BBC's Ethiopia film, Oxfam raised £1 million from the public; by Nov. 2, Save the Children had got or been pledged £2 million.

But with the publicity, and the money, comes pressure to spend it fast. The charities cannot ignore these calls, even if they believe it would be more cost-effective to deploy funds over a longer period.

"Charities are in a very vulnerable position," says Oxfam's overseas director, Mr. Marcus Harris, who retired this month after 20 years with the organisation. "If people give out of pity, you've got a duty not to put it in the bank and save it for another day."

The results are plain to see: supplies of food rushed to Ethiopia at a rate which its infrastructure cannot possibly cope with, and possibly large-scale confusion among relief agencies.



Oblivious of her rags and the flies swarming around her face, this young victim of the civil strife in Chad smiles as she finished her only meal of the day (WFP photo).

On occasion in the past, the public pressure for quick decisions has simply resulted in wrong decisions. During the mass expulsions of Ghanaians from Nigeria last year, public concern aroused by television coverage forced Oxfam to commit food relief for the operation. Four days later field officers were able to make a proper assessment of the situation, and reported — too late — that food aid would not be needed at all.

Co-ordination between the agencies in the field is not smooth at the best of times, but during disasters there is bound to be overlapping and additional friction. Aid officials say they try to divide tasks among themselves, but there is rarely an overall co-ordinator of a relief effort apart from the host government.

Dr. D'Souza's report draws scathing conclusions about the level of co-operation between agencies, and their lack of attention to systematic information-gathering.

"The business of overseas disaster relief must be one of the few remaining multi-million dollar concerns which operates on such an amateur basis, with little outside control, few standards or sanctions," she writes. "Relief programmes go badly wrong, money is wasted, people die and there is no institutional mechanism for ensuring that such mistakes are not repeated."

Once the dust has settled over the Ethiopian famine, no doubt there will be a similar catalogue of blunders to recount. Perhaps, too, a deeper message will sink in. Ten years ago at the World Food Conference in Rome, Dr. Henry Kissinger said: "The profound comment of our era is that for the first time we have the technical capacity to free mankind from the scourge of hunger. Therefore today we must proclaim a bold objective: that within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread and that no human being's future and capacity will be stunted by malnutrition."

Since then, Africa's food crisis has got dramatically worse and the number of hungry people in the world is estimated to have about doubled. Ethiopia is only a symptom — Financial Times news feature.

Western publishers face Arabisation challenge

By Iain Jenkins

THE ARABISATION of the Middle East's education system is forcing Western publishers to develop new methods of tapping the lucrative market for book sales to the region. The rewards are high for publishers that get the formula right, as sales — which now total \$100 million annually — are expected to expand rapidly in the next 10 years.

Most books sold to the Middle East are written either in English or French. Arabic books make up less than five per cent of the total. This composition is almost bound to change: most Arab governments have passed legislation making it compulsory for universities to teach in Arabic.

For the moment, exports of English and French-language books are continuing to soar. Sales from France, the U.K. and the U.S. — the three leading exporters — increased by 21 per cent in 1983 to \$70.7 million. With the

exception of Saudi Arabia, the biggest book importer — where sales fell by 13 per cent, to \$13.6 million — every Middle East country bought more books last year. Tunisia, the second-largest market, doubled its imports of French-language books to \$12 million.

Nevertheless, "there are signs of increasing disenchantment with books that are not in Arabic," one publisher warns. "The whole nature of the book trade in the region is changing." More and more Western publishers are recognising the need to come to terms with this change — and to cash in by translating books into Arabic.

The Middle East has more than 1.4 million students in full-time university education. In the next 10 years, the number will rise, as more universities open their doors. Other growth areas are likely to be in state-run secondary education, women's education and the private sector.

Western publishers are using two main techniques in adapting

to the new market. The first is to have English or French-language textbooks translated into Arabic outside the Middle East, and to print the books in Europe. This method is being used by the U.S. John Wiley and Company, which now has 34 Arabic titles. Over Steentoft, its Middle East marketing manager, says: "The system is efficient and reliable, but can be a bit expensive."

The second method is to set up a joint-venture, contractual arrangement with an Arab publishing house. This has been done by the U.K.'s Longmans with Lebanon's Librairie du Liban — which has translated Ladybird books into Arabic. The U.S.'s McGraw Hill has a less formal arrangement with Egypt's Mars ABC. According to Ian Beal, McGraw Hill's Middle East marketing manager, such partnerships are "definitely the way forward. They cut costs and provide distribution outlets."

Other publishers are less enthusiastic: "You can get your fingers burnt," one warned. In 1983, figures taken from export statistics would appear to show that the U.K. had a 42 per cent market share, followed by France with 36.4 per cent and the U.S. with 21.3 per cent.

But many U.S. publishers base their Middle East sales operations in the U.K., with the result that their sales show up in British export statistics. When this factor is taken into account, it seems likely that the U.S. is "the biggest exporter to the region, with the U.K. trailing in third place."

France has a virtual monopoly in North Africa — excluding Libya and Egypt — leaving the other two to battle it out elsewhere. The U.S. is far ahead in the sale of university academic books; the U.K. dominates in exports of school books and English-language teaching books.

But given the state of flux in the market, which of the big three exporters is best-placed to meet its future needs? Ian McIntyre, of the Arabic Publishing and Distribution House — with 50:50

U.K./Egyptian ownership — states: "The U.K. is definitely best-placed to benefit... Because of the high dollar, U.S. textbooks are expensive; French publishers are suffering from a diminution in the importance of their language, while the Arabs like dealing with the U.K."

He adds that, in Iran, the U.S. share of the market has halved to about 35 per cent, a trend he expects to see reflected elsewhere in the Middle East.

Other British publishers say the U.K. has a chance of loosening the American stranglehold on textbook sales, because U.S. textbooks are unsuitable for Arab university courses. Ove Steentoft, of the U.S.'s Wiley, disagrees: "U.S. (academic) publishers have got the resources and the expertise to hold their own in the Arab book markets," he says.

Both U.K. and U.S. publishers are united in their conviction that the French monopoly in North Africa will soon end. Like their British and American counterparts, French publishers are facing the challenge of Arabisation: at the same time, North African purchases of English-language books are increasing. The U.K. already has a foothold in Algeria — where sales rose from \$166,000 to \$190,000 between 1982 and 1983 — and in Morocco.

While the battle for market share in a rapidly changing environment takes Western publishers into new areas, some of the problems they face are depressingly familiar. The most common is late payment, a problem for which they acknowledge there is no cure, apart from more realistic time-scales for payment.

Another difficulty lies in finding a reliable distribution agent. The Middle East book trade is still virtually controlled by a relatively small group of distributors. Among the best-known are Raja Elissa in Jordan, and the Kazindar and Thama groups of Saudi Arabia.

Taken together, the distribution and payments problems make it

very difficult for any but the biggest and longest-established exporters to stay in the Middle East; smaller publishers find it almost impossible to break in. The most insidious threat to the business comes from the piracy of academic texts. According to Ian Taylor, of the U.K. Publishers Association's anti-piracy committee: "The main centres are Lebanon and Egypt, with Lebanon being a much more serious threat, as at least the Egyptian publishing authorities are keen to stamp it out." The cost of piracy to exporters is impossible to calculate, but the total probably runs into millions of dollars.

For the next 10 years, at least, the Middle East's book trade will remain a fascinating and challenging area of growth. And with Cairo host to the annual Middle East book fair — the region's largest, and to many publishers the most important — it will be to Egypt that Western publishers turn to watch the new trends emerging — MEED.

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European nations clash for World Cup berths

Spain's soccer revival to be tested by Scotland

LONDON (R) — Spain, beaten finalists in the European Nations Cup last June, face the most severe test of their soccer resurgence when they meet Scotland at Hampden Park Wednesday night.

Not since they won the European Nations Cup on home soil in 1964 have Spain been held in such high esteem. With Scotland buoyant after two convincing home victories, the World Cup European Group Seven match is an enticing prospect.

If both teams play to their potential it is likely to be the most keenly-contested match of the seven World Cup ties being played in Europe Wednesday, edging out the games between Turkey and 1966 winners England, and Austria and the Netherlands as a spectacle.

Spain's strengths are traditionally a solid defence and rapid, highly-skilled attackers. But until trainer Miguel Munoz, the former Real Madrid star, took over after their disappointing showing in the 1982 World Cup, they were also known for suspect teamwork and discipline.

Munoz has changed all that, however, as Wales discovered last month when they were soundly beaten 3-0 in Seville.

Goalkeeper Luis Arconada, central defender Antonio Maceda, midfielder Rafael Gordillo

and strikers Carlos Santillana and Hipolito Rincon are players of genuine international class who have been moulded into a cohesive unit by Munoz.

But Scotland, 3-0 winners over Iceland last month, are a force to be reckoned with at Hampden, and in captain Graeme Souness, now with Italy's Sampdoria, they have one of the world's toughest midfield generals.

His ability to stoke the Scottish engine room and make chances for veteran striker Kenny Dalglish or his promising colleagues Paul McStay and Maurice Johnston could give Scotland's experienced team the edge.

Scotland are just one of five British Isles teams playing Wednesday. England make their first visit to Istanbul to play Turkey in Group Three. Wales play Iceland in Cardiff in Group Seven. Northern Ireland meet Finland in Belfast in Group Three and Ireland play Denmark in Copenhagen in Group Six.

England will be without their new goal-scoring hero Mark Hatley, who injured a knee playing for AC Milan on Sunday. But they

should still carry too much power for Turkey, who last month lost 2-1 at home to Finland, the team England thrashed 5-0 at Wembley two weeks earlier.

Wales have striker Ian Rush back against Iceland, after he missed his country's two World Cup defeats so far, and his presence should be enough to rekindle Wales' faint hopes of reaching Mexico.

Denmark, who delighted spectators with their flair in the European Championships, have a good opportunity to rediscover their recently lost form against Ireland while Northern Ireland, so strong at home, should avenge their humiliating away defeat by the Finns last May.

In the two remaining matches, Austria face the Netherlands, losing World Cup finalists in 1974 and 1978, in Vienna and Portugal meet Sweden in Lisbon in Group Two.

The Portuguese, like Spain, were surprisingly successful in the European Championships where their tactics and skilful attacking carried them to the semifinals and a memorable extra-time defeat by France.

After two wins Portugal are confident and even without injured forwards Jaime Pacheco and Fernando Chalana they should easily account for Sweden, whom they beat 1-0 in September.



Her Majesty Queen Noor presents the Swedish team captain with silver trophy at the end of the games Monday held at the University of Jordan

Handicapped sports move to Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra) — Khalid Ibn Al Yarmouk hall at the Yarmouk University Tuesday was the scene of the first sports festival for the handicapped. Taking part in the festival which was attended by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid were members of the visiting Swedish handicapped team, teams representing the Mafrqa paralysed carehome and Yarmouk Centre for the Handicapped.

During the festival participants performed some Swedish games, played handball, football and basketball matches in addition to arranging racing competitions. At the end of the festival Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid presented participating teams with medals, while Dr. Marwan Kamal from the Yarmouk University presented the Swedish team the university's shield.

Fromholtz makes successful comeback

BRISBANE, Australia (R) — Diane Fromholtz marked her return to international tennis after more than two years' absence with an impressive 6-4, 6-1 victory over American Mary Lou Piatek in the Brisbane Classic Tuesday.

The Australian — who now plays under her married name, Balestrini — last played in a major tournament at the U.S. Open in 1982, when she opted for a rest from the circuit.

Her compatriot Liz Smylie —

maiden name Sayers — and second-seeded Wendy Turnbull also won their opening matches.

Turnbull beat another Australian first-round winner, Anne Minter, 7-5, 6-3 while Smylie celebrated her weekend wedding with a comfortable 6-2, 6-4 first-round win over Federation Cup teammate Elizabeth Minter.

Balestrini, 28, said after her match she had withdrawn from the circuit to give her time to concentrate on "other things."

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NOC meeting supports Seoul games

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The major results of the assembly of National Olympic Committees (NOC) held here appear to be a commitment to take part in the 1988 Summer Games in South Korea and improvements in economic supports for the member nations.

More than 150 countries sent representatives to last week's meeting, which promoted unity in the Olympic movement, and asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a greater share of decision-making, above all concerning the selection of sites for future games.

The so-called "declaration of Mexico City" was considered the major achievement of the week. It is a document in which all the national committees attending, including the Soviet Union, committed themselves to attending the 1988 summer games in Seoul, South Korea.

The assembly, headed by Mario Vazquez Rana of Mexico, analysed during the week the future of the Olympic movement, expressing an "absolute adhesion" to the Olympic Charter and the International Olympic Committee.

The committee, headed by Juan Antonio Samaranch of Spain, also met here last week. During his visit, despite the objections offered by several socialist nations, Samaranch reiterated several times that Seoul will be the site of the next Olympics and expressed optimism about the chances for success.

Assembly members, for their part, analysed in marathon sessions the problem of Olympic boycotts and concluded that persuasion, not sanctions, is the best method to achieve the assistance of all nations.

"The IOC is struggling to provide aid to all nations so that none might have the pretext of saying it will not attend an Olympiad because of economic problems," Samaranch told reporters.

The members of the assembly of NOCs asked the international committee to improve communications between the organisers of an Olympiad and the Olympic committees of each country. They also asked for greater watchfulness to prevent excessive commercialisation of future games.

Soviets top '84 athletics records

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Thirty-seven world records were bettered or equalled in 1984, according to figures by The Athletics Congress (TAC).

The record total includes 14 world records by Soviet athletes, the most prolific being the Soviet Union's Sergey Bubka, the 20-year-old who broke the pole vault record in May, June, July and August.

Three Americans set a world record in 1984 — Mary Decker at 2000 metres, Evelyn Ashford at 100 metres and the U.S. 400-metre relay team in the Los Angeles Olympics.

Not counted among the 37 world records is Zola Budd's 15:01.83 for the 5000 metres, set on January 5 in Pretoria when she was competing as a South African.

South Africa is not recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) and the

mark was not approved. At least three of the marks listed in the report are in jeopardy. During its meetings in Los Angeles at the Games, the IAAF hedged on the ratification of two marks — Portugal's Fernando Mamede at 10,000 metres and Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen in the women's 5000 metres.

The IAAF cited possible illegal pacing as the holdup on Mamede's mark. The delay on Kristiansen's record is due to "excessive advertising" on her running kit. The third mark in question is Tatyana Kazankina's 300-metre record in Leningrad in late August. Kazankina, a Russian runner, refused an IAAF drug test and was subsequently suspended by her own federation.

Some of the year's highlights: — of the 37 world records, 23 were set by men, 14 by women; — athletes from the Soviet Union were the most prolific record breakers, with 14 set by Russian athletes; — the second highest total of record performances by any one nation was five, by East Germany. The U.S. and Portugal tied for third with three each, followed by Australia, China and Britain with two each. Mexico, West Germany, Norway, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and France set one record each; — there were 22 records in running and walking events (17 by women, five by men) and 15 in field events (six by women, nine by men); — counting world junior bests, the most prolific record setter was Zola Budd, but the IAAF does not ratify junior world marks. Budd set seven world junior bests, two of which also bettered the listed world mark.

Olympian shot dead by sniper

EUGENE, Oregon (AP) — The sniper-shooting death of world-class sprinter Chris Brathwaite of Trinidad while he was jogging at the University of Oregon has left his friends and fellow athletes stunned.

Brathwaite, 35, a two-time Olympian, was shot and killed Monday morning as he jogged along a trail near Autzen stadium.

A sniper armed with two high-powered rifles and dressed like he was "ready to go to war," opened fire at the stadium, witnesses told police.

The sniper, identified as Michael E. Feher, 19, a former University of Oregon student who was living on campus, then about an hour later apparently shot himself to death, police said. A student wrestler standing outside a weight room also was wounded, although his injuries were minor.

Police Sgt. Eric Mellgren said Feher's body was found under a

section of seats at the stadium.

Brathwaite "was known around the world as the grand old man of sprinting," said John McArdle, active with Brathwaite in track club events. "Chris was probably the most-travelled international athlete in Eugene."

Brathwaite apparently was on a routine morning training jog when he was shot. No other joggers were on that section of the popular trail, which is used by hundreds of runners every day.

Apparently, no one but the sniper even saw Brathwaite go down. His body was not discovered until nearly three hours after the shots rang out.

"That same feeling, that shock factor, is floating through the athletic community," McArdle said. "All the people who are real athletes know Chris or know of him."

The shooting site is only a few hundred yards from Skipworth Juvenile Detention Centre, where

Brathwaite was a senior member of the staff.

A native of Port of Spain, Trinidad, Brathwaite had lived in Eugene since coming to join the university track team in 1975. He graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and earned a master's degree in corrections in 1977.

"The guy was obviously unique — a sprinter at age 35," said former Olympian Mike Manley, another track club member. "He was a real private person, quiet, unassuming. He wasn't a flashy person, he wasn't someone who made a lot of noise, but he was just highly respected by all of us."

Representing Trinidad, Brathwaite was the only Eugene resident to compete in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow — which were boycotted by the United States. He advanced to the semifinals in the 100 metres, missing a spot in the finals by one place.

Windies fast bowlers reflect on test victory

PERTH (R) — Michael Holding, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall and young Courtney Walsh, the four smiling assassins of the West Indies cricket team, had time to reflect Tuesday on their rout of Australia in the first test here.

Enjoying their unscheduled rest day following West Indies' win by an innings and 112 runs with a day to spare, Garner and Marshall considered the reasons for Australia's batting failures, notably in

the first innings when they were dismissed for 76.

"The Australians were waiting for the bounce," said Garner. "And they were on the back foot for it, but there was no need to bowl that way," added Marshall. "The Aussies got on the back foot expecting a barrage of high-flying balls they didn't get."

Holding, who took six for 21 in Australia's first innings collapse, talked about how growing up in

Jamaica had helped to make him a great fast bowler.

"As a youngster there are two things to do to rise above your way of life — either bat well or bowl fast," he said.

"And there are no sedate 11-a-side games as on Australian parks. The population is large, the opportunities few and the need to excel great," Holding added.

"There are 40 to 50 in a game, with one batsman and no umpires. To get a bat you literally have to throw the wicket over — there's no other way."

"If you have the batsman caught off your bowling you don't get a go — the fellow who catches it does. So you bowl even faster and shatter his wicket to get a turn."

Walsh, 22, still trying to establish himself in the West Indian team, is another product of the hard Jamaican school. As a boy, he saw Bobby Simpson's embattled 1977-78 Australians in the Caribbean and vowed he would play test cricket.

"I then saw Ian Chappell, Dennis Lillee and all the Australians. I had only read about when the super-teams came to our islands a little later," Walsh added. "I wanted to play against them and some day come to Australia."

One up in the series, the West Indies now head back for the east coast, playing New South Wales in Sydney before moving on to Brisbane for the second test starting on November 23.

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New Delhi seeks credits

NEW DELHI (R) — India's new government is approaching foreign banks for large commercial loans as the economy recovers from a wave of violence following the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are needed in the financial year ending next March to pay for large development projects.

Foreign banks told Reuters Monday night they were confident the new government headed by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would have no problem in raising the money at reasonable interest rates.

The new loans are likely to be finalized ahead of national elections expected to be held in January 1985, they said.

Mr. Adrian Evans, managing director of the London-based Grindlays Bank, said the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) would shortly raise \$300 million on the London money market through a note issue.

"The government is as strong as ever. We are very confident its policies will continue to give strength to India's very high credit rating," he said.

A conservative good sense characterizing India's handling of the economy over the last four years will continue, he added.

Mr. Evans, who is here to discuss with Air India his bank's role in helping the airline to buy six Airbus, said that after the note issue, India was likely to raise substantial additional funds on the London market.

The proposed ONGC loan will be India's second major foreign borrowing since Gandhi's murder 12 days ago.

Saudi plants ask for loans

BAHRAIN (R) — Three petrochemical companies in Saudi Arabia are raising \$450 million in loans for the final stages of construction and start-up of their plants in the Gulf city of Jubail, banking sources said Monday.

Jubail Petrochemical Company, a joint venture between the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and Exxon Corporation, has asked four banks to raise \$120 million.

The company began testing on its plant about two weeks ago, and plans to produce 260,000 tonnes per year of linear low-density polyethylene.

The four banks are Saudi-British Bank, Saudi-French Bank, the London-based Saudi International Bank and the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank.

Jubail petrochemical has the option of taking up to half of the funds in Saudi riyals, the sources said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed with the F.T. 30 at a record high 924.3, up 9.6 supported by hopes of a further reduction in U.K. interest rates, dealers said.

Operators were satisfied with British Chancellor Lawson's autumn financial statement Monday. The FTSE 100 index reached a record high 1186.1 at 1426 hours but by 1530 hours had shaded back to show a 9.6 gain at 1184.7. Trade, however, was moderate.

Some dealers said prices were underpinned by the view that the institutions may have to scale down the size of their purchases of British Telecom's share offer because of the large number of individual applications expected from the public.

Unilever edged 15p to 1,060 despite its third quarter results being at the top end of expectations. Glaxo rose 10p to 1,015 and Thorn EMI gained 8p to 479 while ICI eased 6p to 668.

Government bonds reversed early gains with declines ranging to 3/16 point in response to the weaker opening on U.S. credit markets. Gold shares were firm in line with bullion.

Banks edged off their highs with Barclays up 5p to 539 after 542 while insurance remained firm. Commercial Union was up 6p ahead of results Wednesday. Oils were quietly mixed with B.P. down 2p to 488 and Esso 12p higher at 343. In stores Burton ended unchanged at 374 having dipped to 367 on annual results.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	U.S. dollars
One sterling	1.2770/80
One U.S. dollar	1.3133/36
	2.9282/92
	3.3025/40
	2.4090/4100
	59.22/25
	8.9880/9930
	1824.00/1825.00
	239.95/240.05
	8.4325/4425
	8.5400/5500
	10.5750/5850
One ounce of gold	350.75/351.25

U.S. dollars
Canadian dollars
West German marks
Dutch guilders
Swiss francs
Belgian francs
French francs
Italian lire
Japanese yen
Swedish crowns
Norwegian crowns
Danish crowns
U.S. dollars

Islamic states open trade talks today

ISTANBUL (R) — About 40 Islamic countries, many represented by ministers, open three days of talks here Wednesday on ways to forge closer economic ties.

They will take part in the first meeting of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) standing committee for economic and commercial cooperation, formed in 1981 and chaired by Turkish President Kenan Evren.

The meeting of the standing committee, designed to promote cooperation among Islamic countries in agriculture, trade, industry, energy and transport, will deal only with expansion of trade and industry ties, conference sources said.

A 50-member Turkish delegation will attend the meeting, presided over by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and held under tight security at an exhibition centre.

Turkish foreign ministry sources said at least 30 countries will send ministers.

The chairman of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, Mr. Abdul Rahman Khan, will also participate.

Experts from participant countries met Monday to draw up a report and a draft resolution for the standing committee.

The meeting was chaired by Turkey's state planning organisation chief, Mr. Yusuf Ozal, who called in an opening address for closer trade ties among Islamic countries.

Jordan was appointed to report the experts' findings to the ministers after a row in which Libya threatened to walk out over the nomination of Egypt, conference sources said.

Turkey wants all Islamic states to benefit from increased trade ties and hopes it will be possible to implement standing committee resolutions, Turkish sources said.

Another aspect Turkey considers important is participation of the private sector from all Islamic countries in trade and industrial activities.

Turkey will propose the establishment of an Islamic clearing union for trade payments, expansion of export-import credits and preferential trade ties, the sources said.

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Tuesday the Turkish central bank had drafted a proposal on the clearing union, under which Islamic states would use their own currency in trade transactions to save foreign currency reserves.

Technology transfers and producer unions in different sectors, such as one already pending in

cement, and cooperation in contracting activities were also discussed at the meeting of experts.

Western diplomats in Ankara said they expected little in the way of concrete decisions on closer trade links because of the widely differing interests of participants.

Conference sources said the experts unanimously agreed Tuesday to propose to the ministers new committees to set up a trade information network among the Islamic countries and to look at standardisation of products.

They said Turkey also proposed that the OIC members should give each other priority in land and sea transport bookings and that visa procedures for businessmen should be streamlined with more multiple-entry visas.

On industrial matters, the ministers will look at ideas for encouraging joint ventures among the member states, joint investment companies and cooperation in training of manual workers, the sources said.

Jordan to report findings

Jordan was appointed to report the experts' findings to the ministers after a row in which Libya threatened to walk out over the

World Bank official urges banks to forget loans principal of developing countries

WASHINGTON (R) — Commercial banks should stop operating under the assumption that the principal on loans to lesser developed countries will eventually be repaid, a World Bank official said Monday.

"The principal is not going to get repaid," World Bank Treasurer Eugene Rotberg told a meeting of the bank administration institute.

By "pretending" that developing countries will eventually repay the billions of dollars they now owe, commercial banks are merely drawing attention to the world debt crisis and making it look worse than it actually is, he said.

"If the money isn't due, then it isn't owed and if it isn't owed, you take no losses," he added.

Mr. Rotberg advised bankers to focus instead on the repayment of the interest on loans to developing countries and on the amount of increased debt they are willing to offer.

Meanwhile, several Western finance officials Monday expressed grave doubts that the United States would act soon to cut its

huge budget deficit, and thus drive down interest rates around the world.

During a conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the stability of the global financial system, a number of the officials also voiced fears that the international financial system could be severely disrupted without early action on the deficit.

"The Reagan administration is holding the deficit hostage until Congress gives in (on non-defence spending cuts)," said Mr. J.K. Postma, the Netherlands' budget director-general.

"Considering the firmness with which both sides stick to their positions and the outcome of the congressional elections, this stalemate may take quite a while to be resolved," he added.

A fierce debate is raging within the administration over whether to raise taxes to cut the deficit, but President Reagan's statements during the election campaign appeared to rule out such a move.

The deficit, which measures the gap between government spending and income, is now estimated at about \$175 billion a year.

Most of the officials agreed that a reduction in the budget deficit would quickly drive down real, or inflation-adjusted, interest rates and stimulate investment and economic growth.

British treasury official Mr. J.G. Little warned that the rates at which America was borrowing abroad to finance the budget deficit "threatens large-scale instability."

He also said there were genuine fears that, while an impasse over the deficit continued in Washington, the chances of a "hard landing" for the global economy increased.

Mr. Little sketched a gloomy picture of resurging inflation, a dramatic decline in economic growth and turbulent foreign exchange markets.

Mr. Ian Stewart, senior adviser to the Canadian ministry of economic development, said that despite the apparent success in fighting inflation, Wall Street remained sceptical that the budget deficit would be cut and wipe out "lingering fears on Wall Street that inflation will resurface."

Britons condemn plans to change pound note

LONDON (R) — The British government faced the wrath of an outraged nation Tuesday after announcing plans to abolish the one pound note and replace it with a hated coin.

Politicians, newspapers, shopkeepers and the public united to condemn the change, announced by Finance Minister Nigel Lawson in an autumn economic statement Monday.

"Does Nigel Lawson really want to go down in history as the chancellor who dipped into the nation's pockets and took away the pound note?" asked the mass-circulation Sun newspaper.

The pound coin, made of an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc, has been treated with widespread disdain since it was introduced 18 months ago. Conservative parliamentarian Sir Brandon Rhys Williams described it Tuesday as a "horrid little hutton."

Unmoved by his government's claim that the change would save £3 million (\$5.75 million) a year, Conservative Peter Bruinvels said: "The savings involved in this move are just not worth it. There are plenty of pen-pushers who could be axed instead."

According to the treasury, the once valuable pound is now little more than small change. Notes quickly become scruffy and have a street life of only 10 months whereas the pound coin will last for 40 years, treasury officials said.

Shopkeepers routinely apologise for giving the coin in change — "sorry mate, I'll have to give

you one of these" is the way Tuesday's Guardian newspaper summed up their feeling. Shoppers complain that the coin is easy to lose and wears holes in their pockets.

The modern pound note was introduced in 1914 at the outbreak of World War I. Its replacement of the gold sovereign caused almost as much of a stir as its present demise.

Pound notes will remain in circulation for another year but the Bank of England will cease issuing them after Dec. 31.

The Scots, who are proverbially careful with their money, will keep their own pound notes, issued by three private Scottish banks and accepted throughout Britain.

A spokeswoman at the Bank of Scotland said: "If public demand made it appear that the pound note was not popular we would then look at the situation. But that is not our feeling at the moment."

Mr. Lawson, Monday also painted an optimistic picture of domestic economic recovery but acknowledged that unemployment was still rising. He estimated inflation falling to 4.5 per cent by the end of next year and predicted tax cuts next spring of about £1.5 billion (\$1.8 billion).

He said the number of people in jobs had been rising briskly since early last year but not yet strongly enough to check the rise in unemployment — now 13.4 per cent of the workforce.

EC ministers agree cost control measures

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) ministers agreed Monday on key procedures for stricter cost control to avoid cash crises similar to one which has virtually paralysed the trading bloc for almost two years.

Officials said Monday agreement by the 10 finance ministers will be discussed here on Wednesday with leaders of the European Parliament, who fear it may curtail the assembly's budgetary powers.

They said the consultations were aimed at preventing a clash with the directly elected parliament before the procedures are officially incorporated into community practices.

The new procedure will be used for the first time in working out the 1986 budget, officials said.

Its key elements are restrictions on the growth of agricultural spending, a greater role for finance ministers in deciding cash limits and measures to prevent what some governments see as attempts by the European Parliament to exceed its budget authority.

The new procedures will mean that spending on farm subsidies, the principal cause of the community's cash problems, could no longer rise faster than the rate of growth of the bloc's revenues.

Agricultural spending has almost doubled in five years and now accounts for over two-thirds of the community's 28 billion European Currency Units (\$21 billion) budget.

The implementation of the new procedures will coincide with the planned 1986 entry of Spain and Portugal which is expected to cost at least an additional \$1 billion a year.

For Britain and some of its more cash-conscious partners, the cost control agreement was an essential precondition for the community's enlargement.

Meanwhile, the EC has paid more than \$750 million since 1976 to less developed countries not linked to the bloc by special agreements, the commission said Monday.

The money, which is in addition to that given each year to the Maghreb and Machrak regions of Africa and to the 64 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries linked to the community by the "Lome Pact", is aimed at the world's poorest areas.

About three quarters of the more than one billion ECUs went to Asia, 20 per cent to Latin America and the other five per cent to Angola and Mozambique.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A strange day and evening. Until noon you are apt to get involved in trouble through accidents, arguments or hasty and impulsive acts, but at the same time, you can be constructive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Although one at home could irritate you, do nothing to stir up resentment and in the evening you gently go out for recreation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't try to make radical changes at your work or it would be greatly resented. Make sure that you are most careful in motion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Don't argue over some monetary affair and save yourself trouble, and in the evening steer clear of a troublesome friend.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You may be confused as to how to gain some goal that means much to you, but don't be forceful and it soon can be reached.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Listen only to advice of experts during the daytime and in the evening, study where you are headed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your friends may be too immersed in own affairs to be of much help to you, so don't count on it. Don't be pushy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Outside tasks should be of first concern today and in the evening, do not let a good friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you try to force a new idea on others, this would get you nowhere in the morning, and tonight avoid any civic problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Although you feel you are being pressured where some bill is concerned, keep quiet for now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Avoid that ram-huntious friend in the morning and tonight a business tie could be difficult also.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't have talks with partners today which could lead to disagreements and handle practical problems yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Delays are possible in making plans for recreation and later, although you do not feel like working, it is best that you do.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will easily understand the problems of others and know how best to solve them, so slant the education along the lines of law, social service or medicine. Early teach to be more objective where own problems are concerned otherwise they could seem overwhelming to him or her.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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"Every day for five years he tried to sweep me off my feet. Now I can't even get him to sweep the kitchen!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UGOBS

KNOTE

LIRMAN

MOANEY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: DUCHY JULEP PARISH BEMOAN

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: DUCHY JULEP PARISH BEMOAN

Answer: Did they call her this because she had a heart of stone? — A PEACH

Peanuts

Mutt 'n' Jeff

THIS OFFER IS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY...

ACT NOW!

THAT ISN'T WHAT HE MEANT...

BUT I ALWAY'S WORE SIZE THREE AND A HALF!

I CAN'T EVEN GET IT ON WITH THIS TIRE IRON!

LOOK, LADY! SHALL I SHOW YOU YOUR RIGHT SIZE FIRST OR WOULD YOU RATHER CONTINUE THIS TORTURE AND WORK UP TO A LITTLE BIT LITTLE?

I HEAR YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH THAT BLOKE FROM LONDON LAST NIGHT.

YEAH... WELL, IT WAS HIS OWN STUPID FAULT.

HE WOULDN'T AGREE WITH ME THAT NORTHERNERS ARE MORE FRIENDLY THAN PEOPLE FROM THE SOUTH.

AND DID YOU MANAGE TO CONVINCE HIM?

Andy Capp

THE Daily Crossword

by R. M. McWhirter

ACROSS

- 1 Soothe
- 2 Polite address
- 3 Gun sight
- 4 "And leads you to believe"
- 5 Excess
- 6 Wheel support
- 7 December's jolly fellow
- 8 Ohio city
- 9 Person the actress
- 10 Material for wicker-work
- 11 Tune title
- 12 Wheel cake of India
- 13 Anchor lines
- 14 Canoe
- 15 Haynes or Reddy
- 16 Photography solution
- 17 Muhammad's son-in-law
- 18 Second-hand
- 19 Bearded
- 20 Grand
- 21 Extinct bird
- 22 Staggering
- 23 Crow
- 24 Engaging wheel
- 25 Attractive
- 26 Hair
- 27 — polio
- 28 Mosquito killer
- 29 Show grant interest
- 30 Decant
- 31 "A visit from"
- 32 — Domini
- 33 Floating in water
- 34 — even teal
- 35 Adolescent
- 36 — voice
- 37 Bus rider
- 38 Through: prof.
- 39 — Ohai
- 40 Overused badly
- 41 Eur. sea
- 42 — polio
- 43 USSR river
- 44 Baseball's Dizzy
- 45 Priscilla's man
- 46 Sandrac
- 47 Discretion group
- 48 Pale
- 49 Fellest of old
- 50 — even teal
- 51 — even teal
- 52 Indistinct
- 53 Guided
- 54 Pelican Claude
- 55 Gun weight
- 56 Tiling
- 57 LX
- 58 Sparty fabric
- 59 Central state
- 60 "Ulamite" poet
- 61 Fluid measure
- 62 Thin eyelash
- 63 Narrow street
- 64 Thanks's spouse
- 65 Pedro's clock
- 66 Steel
- 67 Young oyster
- 68 Soda fountain shell
- 69 Finn. poem
- 70 Dear foot
- 71 Arm bone
- 72 Fr. river
- 73 Laborer of yore
- 74 Pelu
- 75 A Cole

Nicaraguans mobilise in show of force against U.S.

MANAGUA (R) — Tens of thousands of young Nicaraguans were expected to report for orders Tuesday in a major military mobilisation which Foreign Ministry advisers described as a show of force against the United States.

The Defence Ministry put the armed forces on full alert Monday after public warnings by the Sandinist government that a U.S. invasion was imminent.

But the Foreign Ministry advisers said the mobilisation was intended mainly as a show of force. "It also shows the United States that we can prepare quickly for war and sound the alarm to the international community that we feel threatened," one said.

American SR-71 spy planes have flown over Nicaragua for the past four days, accompanied by sonic booms. Government leaders also said 25 U.S. warships with 15,000 troops aboard were approaching the coast. Washington has said the ships were on exercises.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in Brazil for a meeting of the Organisation of American States (OAS), denied that the United States had plans to invade Nicaragua. He dismissed the alarm as self-induced and without basis.

Soldiers with machine-guns and anti-aircraft artillery established

dozens of camouflaged tank and armoured personnel carrier positions before dawn Monday. Officials say the mobilisation was Nicaragua's biggest. About 20,000 young people who had volunteered to help harvest coffee, the country's main export, were ordered instead to report for military training.

In Managua, many working class Nicaraguans interviewed Monday seemed unaware of any diplomatic motives behind the mobilisation and were frightened by the call to arms.

"We know that Reagan wants to invade Nicaragua and we fear it," said Raymunda Mendosa, a 42-year-old mother of nine who sells tomatoes in the capital's main market.

"If it wasn't for Reagan I wouldn't be a son fighting in the

government said Monday that its forces killed 30 rebels in a clash in the north on Saturday.

Nicaragua's junta coordinator Daniel Ortega was declared president-elect Tuesday by the Supreme Electoral Council, which announced the final results of the Nov. 4 elections.

The council said 61 of the 96 constituent assembly seats went to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), which won 66.97 per cent of the vote.

It said 14 seats went to the Conservative Democratic Party, nine to the Independent Liberal Party, six to the Popular Social Christian Party, two to the Communist Party, two to the Socialist Party and two to the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party.

The council said the presidential candidates of each of the six parties running against the FSLN had been named deputies, raising to 96 the members of the constituent assembly.

The opposition made a strong showing in the elections, and opposition parties said they were encouraged by the results.

The elections, branded a "Soviet-style sham" by President Reagan, were the first since the FSLN took power in a 1979 revolution which ousted right-wing

dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Meanwhile, the Organisation of American States (OAS) seemed set to keep to the planned agenda at its annual assembly Tuesday despite a military alert in Nicaragua where the government has warned of an imminent U.S. invasion.

Delegates from three Central American group countries — Mexico, Colombia and Panama — were expected to address plenary sessions of the OAS in Brasilia Tuesday on efforts to bring peace to Central America. But there were no plans to discuss the Nicaraguan alert.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, at a news conference after he attended Monday's opening of the assembly, dismissed the invasion scare as self-induced by the Sandinist government to whip up the feelings of the local populace.

But he said the U.S. would work in every way it could to rid the Western hemisphere of what he called the aggressive and subversive influence of Soviet arms shipments to Nicaragua.

Washington contends Nicaragua is fomenting revolution in Central America and that its acquisition of sophisticated weapons is creating a military imbalance in the region.

Next possible famine victim is Mauritania, says African expert

OTTAWA (R) — Mauritania could follow Ethiopia as the next mass victim of famine, according to a top climatologist who has charted Africa's disastrous decrease in rainfall for 20 years.

"One-third of Mauritania has effectively been abandoned by its people and that land has got to stay abandoned. It will take decades for it to recover," Kenneth Hare told Reuters.

"At a recent U.N.-sponsored meeting, a spokesman for Mauritania said up to 800,000 people have drifted away from the land and are living in camps. They are near the brink," he said.

Dr. Hare, a climatologist expert from the University of Toronto who has travelled widely across Africa, said: "Africans have faced

a remorseless 20-year wringing-out."

Noting that rainfall had decreased steadily from 1964 across most of the Sahel region, he added: "Africa is the only continent in the world where the food supply has diminished per capita. I fear for West Africa and Mauritania worries me most. Much of the old pastoral land is finished."

In a special report prepared for the United Nations in 1977, Dr. Hare said vast tracts of the Sahel faced being turned into semi-arid desert which could feed no-one.

In addition to the population explosion that strained resources to a maximum, prime problems were overgrazing of the land and the cutting of trees for firewood which left vast regions denuded of

vegetation, he said.

Disastrous overgrazing occurred especially in some parts of Kenya and Madagascar but also in other countries. "It's a very depressing sight from the air," Dr. Hare told Reuters. "I can remember the Sudan with abundant trees. Now there are none in sight."

Nature could have come through this drought without much damage, he said, but the large population increase in the past 20 years had put more pressure on the land.

He said Africans had to control land use much more strictly because the skies offered no prospect of any immediate respite, unless nature would override all this.

India to hold elections on Dec. 24

NEW DELHI, India (Agencies) — National Elections to elect a new Indian government will be held on Dec. 24 and 27, it was announced Tuesday.

There would, however, be no polls in the two turbulent states of Assam and Punjab, India's election commission said. The decision meant that the two states would go unrepresented in the Indian Parliament.

No parliamentary elections were held in Assam, north eastern India, even in 1980 when Indira Gandhi returned to power. Mrs. Gandhi's son, Rajiv Gandhi, succeeded her as prime minister after her assassination Oct. 31.

The commission said nationwide balloting would be held

Dec. 24 and 27.

The five-year term of the present government expires Jan. 19. Chief Election Commissioner R.K. Trivedi said candidates for the 542 parliamentary seats would be required to file nominations between Nov. 20-27.

The last date for withdrawing candidacies was set for Nov. 30, Mr. Trivedi said.

The commissioner said that voting would take place on two days because authorities did not have adequate police and paramilitary forces to ensure peaceful balloting.

Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party at present holds 354 of the 544 seats in the Lower House. Congress (I) also has an over-

COLUMN

2-year-old transplant patient dies

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AP) — A 2-year-old girl who was the world's second simultaneous heart-liver transplant patient died Monday when her new liver failed, a hospital spokeswoman said. Kellie Cochran of Birmingham, Alabama, died at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh after undergoing two transplant operations within three days, according to hospital spokeswoman Nancy Perowski. Kellie received her first new heart and liver in a 12-hour operation on Friday. She was only the second person ever to receive the two organs in the same procedure. She underwent a second heart transplant early Sunday after doctors said her new heart was not pumping properly, according to a hospital spokesman.

Britain to honour film world

LONDON (R) — Britain will honour British-born Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Vivien Leigh, David Niven and Peter Sellers on postage stamps next year as a celebration of the country's film industry.

Producer of 'Lassie' TV series dies

LOS ANGELES (R) — Multi-millionaire Jack Wrather, who was a member of President Reagan's "Kitchen Cabinet" and produced 'Lassie' and 'The Rifleman', died of cancer Monday at the age of 66, a hospital official said. Wrather, a Texan who began his career working on oil drilling rigs, died at St. John's Hospital in Los Angeles after a long illness. His companies own the former British liner Queen Mary, now a floating hotel at Long Beach, California; television stations, hotels and the television series 'Lassie' the Lone Ranger and Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.

MP suspended for calling Owen a 'pompous sod'

LONDON (R) — Labour Party left-winger Dennis Skinner was ordered from the House of Commons Monday for calling David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, a "pompous sod". Speaker Bernard Weatherill first asked him to withdraw "that word". Mr. Skinner rose and said: "I withdraw the word pompous." "It was not that word," said Weatherill and suspended him for the day with a warning to moderate his language. Skinner, a Labour M.P., was last suspended from parliament for saying Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher might try to bribe judges in industrial cases.

Luxury liner under heavy guard

SOUTHAMPTON, England (R) — Britain's new and most palatial liner, Royal Princess, was under heavy guard Monday after charges of lax security around the 45,000-tonne ship to be dedicated this week by Princess Diana. Police sources said precautions were intensified after a report in the tabloid Daily Star that "Security surrounding the ship is practically nil." Reporters underwent close checks this afternoon before being allowed aboard the £150 million (\$180 million) cruise liner, which will receive its royal accolade from the princess on Thursday.

Girl marries man of her dreams

NAIROBI (Agencies) — A 24-year-old Kenyan girl has married the man of her dreams — Mohammed Albo, 100 — declaring that "older men really know how to treat a girl. I am lucky to have met a husband, he is always kind to me and never beats me," said the bride, Sukdiana, after solemnly swearing to join in union with Albo for better and for worse. The happy marriage, reported in the weekly Nya and confirmed by local officials, took place in the northern town of Moyale in the presence of the couple's nearest relatives. Sukdiana, who is a long-disked beauty, Honey and Eggs and no tobacco or alcohol, said she was ready to have more children. "All the husbands in my age group are just so-called husbands," she concluded with a smile.

U.N. meeting to discuss environmental protection

PARIS (R) — More than 400 senior government and industry officials from around the world meet Wednesday to discuss ways of countering the environmental disasters caused by acid rain, toxic waste and other hazards.

The three-day World Industry Conference on Environmental Management at Versailles will be run by the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Chamber of Commerce.

It will be the most comprehensive attempt so far to coordinate industry and government approaches to pollution but is unlikely to meet environmentalist demands for international legislation on the issue.

"We see this as a very tortuous route," Frans Van Den Hoven, conference chairman and former chairman of the chemical giant Unilever, told reporters. "The more practical way is to go

for a code of conduct, for voluntary rules that leave some room for flexibility."

A conference spokesman said a major theme would be how governments and industry should share the enormous cost of environmental programmes.

A preliminary conference report said conservation could save money by turning valueless land into productive investment and that short-sighted human activity could have serious results.

The report proposed that standing committee should be set up to monitor and report on environmental progress and to prepare for a second conference within a few years.

Speakers will include Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius and William Ruckelshaus, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Yugoslav dissident says charges are 'groundless'

BELGRADE (R) — Philosophy student Goran Jovanovic told a Yugoslav court Tuesday that conspiracy charges against him and five other intellectuals were "groundless".

Jovanovic, 23, the fourth of the six defendants to reply in court to the indictment, said friends had met several times at his apartment for informal discussions on a variety of topics but there was nothing illegal about the gatherings or anything that threatened the state.

"The charges ... are groundless," Jovanovic, the youngest of the defendants, said.

The six are accused of conspiring in private meetings from

1977 to undermine Yugoslavia's Communist political system. The charge carries a jail sentence of five to 15 years.

Many Western diplomats see the Belgrade trial, now in its second week, as potentially the most significant prosecution of the post-Tito years.

Intellectuals say its outcome could shape the future course of human rights in Communist, but non-aligned, Yugoslavia.

The prosecution is trying to prove that the group of six intellectuals represented an organised entity that plotted to overthrow Communist rule in Yugoslavia over a seven-year period.

Typhoon claims over 500 lives in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Typhoon Agnes, which devastated parts of the central Philippines last week, killed more than 500 people, the official Philippine News Agency said Tuesday.

It quoted the country's disaster coordination council as saying 501 people were killed on Panay Island, 325 kilometres south of Manila, where coastal towns and villages were the worst-hit.

Agnes, which whipped up giant waves, also killed 45 people in Leyte and eastern Samar provinces to the east of Panay, according to earlier reports.

It was the 18th major storm to hit the country this year. Typhoon Ike killed more than 1,000 people

in the southern and central Philippines in September.

Radio Hanoi, monitored in Bangkok, said Tuesday that Agnes killed at least 60 people and injured 100 when it lashed central Vietnam last week.

It said 200 fishing boats were reported missing but did not indicate what happened to the crews.

The radio said Agnes triggered the heaviest rains in Hanoi for nearly a century. The worst affected province was Nghe Binh where thousands of homes and about 100 schools were destroyed.

The radio said heavy torrential rains submerged more than 136,000 hectares (340,000 acres) of rice fields.

EC fails to agree on Spanish entry terms

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community ministers have failed to agree on key terms for Spanish and Portuguese accession but will resume their difficult search for compromise.

Diplomats said ministers were deeply satisfied over an agreement Monday which should ensure effective control of the bloc's runaway spending, a precondition for the planned entry of the two Iberian states on Jan. 1, 1986.

But foreign and agriculture ministers, meeting separately until late into the night, were unable to bridge wide splits on how to treat vital Spanish commodities such as wine, fruit, vegetables, and fish, a product important for both applicants.

"We have made no progress at all," British Agriculture Minister Michael Jopling said after protracted talks on preventing further increases in the Community's vast wine surpluses before Spanish entry.

The diplomats said the Community appeared unable so far to reconcile divergent national economic interests which have blocked agreement on what terms to offer, despite an apparent political will to bring the two nations into the bloc by the target date.

Shuttle hunts down 2nd stray satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — After their successful capture of a straying satellite the American astronauts aboard the shuttle Discovery set out Tuesday to stalk another through space.

The five crew members are expecting an easier day's work following Monday's mission in which an unexpected obstruction prevented them clamping a bracket on the Palapa satellite so that Discovery's robot arm could bring it aboard.

Crewmember Joe Allen, using the weightlessness of space, took over the role of the huge arm and balanced the 700 kilogramme drum-like satellite on the edge of the shuttle's cargo bay while fellow spacewalker Dale Gardner

worked to secure it. Now the main task for the crew, on the sixth day of their eight-day mission, is to carry out two course adjustments to bring Discovery alongside Westar, the second wandering satellite, early Wednesday.

After Palapa was secured in the shuttle's cargo bay, Discovery was about 1,100 kilometres behind Westar and in the same elliptical orbit, varying from 348 to 372 kilometres above the earth.

The two satellites went into uselessly low orbits after being launched last February. The retrieval operations are financed by a British insurance group which reimbursed both satellites after being damaged by the original owners.

Hawke banks on Labour's record for victory

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke, predicted to win a landslide victory in general elections on Dec. 1, Tuesday unveiled a "no-surprises" platform that asked Australians to vote on his government's record.

The former trades union chief said he would not endanger the achievements of Labour's 20 months in office with a vote-buying spree.

"We are not offering a grab-bag of unrelated, unachievable election promises. We are not offering a list of dollars," Mr. Hawke told an invited audience of 1,500.

Mr. Hawke, who has presided over a significant economic recovery since the breaking of a disastrous drought, said Labour would maintain strong economic and employment growth and low inflation.

Other priorities would be a reform of the tax system and a concerted effort to attack the causes of poverty and inequality, he said in a 45-minute address which emphasised bread-and-butter issues.

Labour has a 25-seat majority in the Lower House of Parliament and a recent opinion poll in a Sydney daily showed 88 per cent of Australians believed Labour would win.

Mr. Hawke has recently stressed the government's successful economic performance and Tuesday he criticised the Conservative opposition, saying it had grandiose spending proposals it could not carry out.

He said Labour would continue to loosen the heavily regulated financial system following its decision to float the dollar and allow foreign banks into the country. Mr. Hawke also pledged more

resources for "an unrelenting attack" on organised crime and drug trafficking in the wake of an official inquiry whose findings catalogued a vast crime network in Australia.

The inquiry, whose report was released earlier this month, followed opposition charges that the government was "soft" on organised crime. The issue has not become a major election factor.

Mr. Hawke dwelt at some length on the drug trade, a problem that touched his own family when his wife recently revealed that his youngest daughter and the daughter's husband were being treated for heroin addiction.

The country's youth must be educated about the damage and danger of drugs, the prime minister said. He pledged to initiate a national campaign against drug abuse if re-elected.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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DON'T FLOG A DEAD HORSE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 1087
♥ A Q J 42
♦ J 76
♣ 82

EAST **WEST**
♠ 65 ♠ A 9 42
♥ 1073 ♥ 986
♦ 1052 ♦ K Q 9
♣ Q J 6 4 3 ♣ K 105

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 3
♥ K 5
♦ A 8 4 3
♣ A 97

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠.

It is unusual fiscal policy to put your money in a bank which might fold at any minute. We can make that statement even though we know of a number of players who do not seem to subscribe to that point of view — the West of today's hand was one such player.

North's Stayman inquiry of two clubs is the accepted way to start an invitational sequence while at the same time probing for a major-suit fit. With a near maximum, South was justified in continuing to three on trump. As the cards lie four hearts is an easy contract, but there is no

reasonable way to get to that spot.

East played the king of clubs on the first trick and, when declarer ducked, he continued with the ten. This, too, declarer allowed to hold, so East led his last club and declarer won the force.

Since the clubs were now established for the defenders, declarer had to hope that the player with the long clubs did not have the ace of spades. He ran his heart tricks and then led the ten of spades. When East turned up with the ace, declarer scored an overtrick.

West had erred grievously. When East returned the ten of clubs at trick two and declarer followed with the one, West could see that there was no point to setting up club tricks since there was no entry to his hand to cash them.

If the contract was to be defeated some other source of tricks had to be found. Obviously the only suit that offered any hope was diamonds. Therefore, West should have overtaken the ten of clubs with the jack to shift to the ten of diamonds. That would establish two tricks in that suit for the defenders, in addition to the two club tricks already in the bag and the ace of spades yet to come.